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Big J, Mon Fernandez play in today's PBA Greatest Game

■ Business / B1

ICTSI bags Madagascar port project

■ World / A10

Bali court sentences Aussie beauty therapist 20 years for pot smuggling

Viagra label may now include blindness warning

DI BALENG BULAG, BASTA PWEDE PA!

WASHINGTON—US health officials are examining rare reports of blindness among some men using the impotence drug Viagra.

The Food and Drug Administration still is in-

VIAGRA/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Bandera launched as RP's 1st compact newspaper

INQUIRER Publications Inc. this week relaunches Bandera as the country's first national compact that is *"pang-Pinoy, pampamilya* (Filipino- and family-oriented)."

Bigger than a tabloid but smaller than a broadsheet, the new Bandera will have news stories, features, columns and opinions written in Filipino, English or Taglish.

BANDERA/ A6

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VAT law challenged at SC

Constitutionality of President's tax powers questioned

By TJ Burgonio and Armand Nocum

SENATE Minority leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday he and six other opposition senators will question before the Supreme Court next week the constitutionality of the newly signed Value-Added Tax Law which grants President Macapagal-Arroyo the power to raise the VAT rate.

The controversial measure, signed last Tuesday, retains the VAT rate at 10 percent, but grants Ms Arroyo the authority to raise it to 12 percent in January next year under certain conditions.

"We're going to question the undue delegation of powers given to the President in the nature of that so-called standby authority," Pimentel told a press forum at the Ambassador Hotel. He insisted that the power to raise taxes, such as VAT, is vested only in Congress and cannot be delegated to the President.

Pimentel said that Senators Sergio Osmeña III, Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Jinggoy Estrada, Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, Alfredo Lim and Jamby Madrigal had committed to sign the petition.

Yesterday, the House party-list group Abakada Guro filed a six-page petition asking the Supreme Court to declare the VAT law "unconstitutional in its entirety." The group representing teachers named as respondents Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr.

"Petitioners submit that while Congress may have been permitted in certain instances to delegate its powers to the executive department, it cannot do so in the instant case where such delegation amounts to a surrender of the power of taxation exclusively vested by the Constitution in the legislature," said Samson Alcantara, Abakada Guro president.

"No amount of authority emanating from Congress can invest

VAT LAW/ A6

JAPANESE Imperial Army soldier Tsuzuki Nakauchi, one of two octogenarians believed to be stragglers from World War II who recently emerged from the mountains of Mindanao, is shown in this undated photo released by a family member (below). Yoshiko Nakauchi (left) visits the tomb of her soldier brother-in-law in his hometown of Ochi in Shikoku, Japan. AP

2 suspected Japanese stragglers sighted

JAPAN is investigating claims of two elderly men who say they are former Japanese soldiers who have been hiding in the mountains of Mindanao since World War II.

Japanese Embassy representatives were dispatched to General Santos City to interview the men in a meeting that was being arranged by a third person who contacted the mission, embassy official Masaru Watanabe said.

Media reports in Japan said the two octogenarians had lived in Mindanao and that their equipment suggested they were former soldiers. One news report said they were separated from their division and that they later wanted to return to Japan but feared they would face a court-martial.

Japanese Embassy spokesperson Shuhei Ogawa cautioned that it was

2 SUSPECTED/ A18

PNP chief says entire RP now rid of 'jueteng'

By Armand N. Nocum
and Luige A. del Puerto

AND THEN there was none.

"The whole of Luzon" is now "jueteng"-free, and Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao is thanking everyone for it.

Lomibao yesterday met with the fact-finding panel of the Department of Justice and said operations of the illegal numbers game had been stopped not only in five regions but throughout Luzon.

Told that certain quarters had doubted the PNP's ability to accomplish the task in so short a time, Lomibao replied: "Well, everybody cooperated. Everybody [worked] in unison ... No one is betting, nobody is collecting. We have to thank everybody for their cooperation."

But in a press conference at the airport in Legazpi City, Lomibao said the field reports that his office received as of noon on Thursday had yet "to be validated."

He said that at 5 p.m. yesterday, he would again receive from his field commanders "jueteng-free" certifications signed by local chiefs of police, mayors and religious leaders.

"After these, I will be sending out national and regional teams to validate [the certifications]. If the teams find out that the [field commanders] are not complying

PNP CHIEF/ A4

To probe or not to probe: Senators split

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SENATE inquiry into "jueteng" will proceed, at least for its first scheduled hearing on Monday, but senators are gearing for a fight over an administration senator's proposal to scrap the hearings altogether.

"Let them try. We will fight them all the way." Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday told the INQUIRER in Cebu City.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago on Thursday said the Senate should leave the investigation to the proper authorities, saying the legislature did not have the mandate or the skills to determine the guilt of government officials and private citizens accused of receiving jueteng payola.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, head of the powerful rules committee that determines how the chamber conducts its business, and Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, chair of one of the two committees authorized to handle the investigation, backed Santiago's call and said the inquiry could be ended after the first hearing on Monday.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said he was leaving the decision to Lapid, chair of the committee on games, amusement and sports, and Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the committee on public order and security. One of the resolutions that had prompted the joint inquiry was filed by Drilon himself.

But Villar, who is also a member of the majority, said it would not be good for the Senate to stop the inquiry.

The opposition, meanwhile, denounced the move of Malacañang's allies.

Pimentel warned of public

TO PROBE/ A4

PHILIPPINES

BATHING BEAUTY

Miss Philippines Gionna Cabrera parades before the judges in the swimsuit competition of the 2005 Miss Universe pageant in Bangkok, Thailand, on Thursday. Cabrera earlier placed fifth in the Best National Costume Parade of the contest that ends on May 30. AP

GMA on Mike: He'll be back soon

By Christine O. Avendaño

SHE EVEN joked about it.

Pressed by reporters on the whereabouts of her conspicuously absent husband, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday he was away on a trip—and kept alive the mystery of where he really was and when he was coming home.

Talking to media during a visit to Legazpi City, Ms Arroyo avoided giving a definite date for the return of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

"Anyway, don't you guys want him to disappear?" she jested, and then laughed.

Then, turning serious, she said: "He's coming back, soon."

Arroyo left for Singapore last week a day after three supposed jueteng operators claimed that he and son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, were beneficiaries of jueteng payola.

The First Gentleman's camp later said Arroyo had gone to Singapore with siblings Rep. Ignacio Arroyo and Marilou, and that the trip had been planned beforehand.

GMA/ A18

PRIOR RESTRAINT

Journalists hit censors' order

By Michael Lim Ubac

LAWMAKERS and journalists yesterday blasted a government memo requiring prior state approval of public affairs programs on television as tantamount to muzzling the media and a throwback to the days of Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship.

They urged Malacañang to revoke the memo issued by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, calling it an attack on civil rights and a violation of the Constitution.

MTRCB officials could not be reached for comment on what prompted the Board to issue memorandum circular No. 07-05, but its chair, Consoliza Laguardia, confirmed in a radio interview that it had been issued.

Dated last May 17, the circular cited what it said was a decision of the Supreme Court in January "that public affairs programs, news documentaries, socio-political editorials, and all other programs of the same category, are television programs that are subject to MTRCB review and approval in accordance with Section 3 of Presidential Decree No. 1986."

JOURNALISTS/ A17

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will be cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Mindanao and Palawan will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/05/28/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

HOSTILE WITNESS

Former Internal Revenue Commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, principal witness in the tax evasion case against Fortune Tobacco and tycoon Lucio Tan, is cross-examined by defense lawyer Estelito Mendoza during yesterday's resumption of the trial in Marikina. The grilling centered on the defense team's contention that the case was filed by the Ramos administration in retaliation for Tan's support for then presidential candidate Ramon Mitra Jr. in the 1992 election. Chato denied the insinuation, saying she was not aware that Tan supported Mitra.

JOAN BONDOC

Coast Guard to use 'profiling' vs sea terrorism

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE Coast Guard will begin next week a program called "terrorist profiling" that will subject passengers on commercial vessels to close scrutiny in an attempt to tighten security aboard ships and ferries and boost the government's anti-terrorist campaign.

Commodore Wilfredo Tamayo, head of Task Force Sea Marshals, said profiling is now commonly employed in international air and sea ports. He said a data base is being compiled from intelligence units of police agencies and the armed forces to support the initiative.

"It's part of updating our measures so that we could better protect ships and passengers," Tamayo told the INQUIRER.

Tamayo's task force was formed following the bombing of the SuperFerry14 on Feb. 27 that left over 100 people dead or missing. The incident is regarded as one of the worst terrorist attacks in the country.

Random checks

Tamayo said the PCG data bank will contain information on age, status, traveling practices and behavior of potential terrorists. Sea marshals will check inconsistencies in statements and peculiar changes in demeanor, like profuse sweating. Tamayo said the questioning would be done properly so as not to offend the ship passenger.

He said random checks will also be conducted during the voyage.

The task force, composed of personnel from the PCG, the police and the armed forces, is responsible for keeping a close watch on port areas and ships for dangerous materials or suspicious-looking people. Sea marshals also settle disputes among passengers and investigate crimes on ships.

A team of six sea marshals is deployed on a ship throughout its journey, working with the shipping companies' security officers.

Gov't lawyers dispute Erap camp's claim of victory at BSP

By Nelson F. Flores

SPECIAL Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio yesterday disputed claims of a major legal victory by lawyers of deposed President Estrada as a result of the inspection at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last Wednesday.

The inspection was done to determine how large a package P130 million in cash would be.

Estrada's lawyers claimed the inspection showed that the P130 million could not be contained in the four boxes allegedly delivered to Estrada's house.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the government's main witness in the plunder case against Estrada, testified that P130 million of Ilocos Sur's excise taxes went to the jailed ex-president.

Villa-Ignacio, who earlier said that nobody, including Singson, had claimed that the entire P130 million was delivered in bulk at one time to Estrada, said the defense lawyers obviously overlooked the paper trail of the P130 million.

Villa-Ignacio said bank records showed that only P90 million of the P130 million kickbacks for Estrada had been withdrawn by Charlie "Atong" Ang on the day that the delivery was allegedly made to Estrada in his residence at No. 1 Polk St., Greenhills, San Juan.

"On the day it was brought to Estrada's residence, Ang withdrew P90 million from the account containing the P130 million at the Mandaluyong City branch of Westmont Bank on Aug. 31, 1998 and that was what was brought to Estrada's residence," Villa-Ignacio said.

'Several withdrawals'

He said that Singson was not aware of how Ang decided to distribute the money. He said that as far as Singson was concerned, "P130 million was Estrada's share from the P200 million tobacco excise tax."

Villa Ignacio also said "several withdrawals" had already been made by Ang, Estrada's gambling buddy, before the P90 million was withdrawn and actually delivered to the Polk St. residence.

He noted that this was the reason why Estrada became angry with Singson and reminded the latter that his share was supposed to amount to P130 million.

Ang is a co-accused with Estrada in the plunder, perjury and illegal use of an alias charges before the Sandiganbayan Special Division presided by Justice Teresita de Castro.

Last Wednesday, lawyer Rene Saguisag asked the Sandiganbayan to acquit Estrada from the charges that he received P130 million in kickbacks from the Ilocos Sur tobacco excise tax.

Saguisag claimed the inspection clearly proved that a box, 12" wide, 10" high and 15" long, similar to the one that Ang allegedly used in delivering the cash to Estrada, could only contain 20 bundles of cash with each bundle containing P1 million.

He said that if four boxes were indeed used in the delivery, as alleged by the prosecution, then only a total of P80 million would have been delivered and not P130 million as stated in the complaint sheet.

"We, however, would like to clarify that Estrada did not receive a single centavo from the tobacco excise tax as alleged by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and that the purpose of this ocular inspection is only to prove the impossibility of his claim," Saguisag stressed.

Saguisag said the prosecution panel should "stop assaulting and insulting our intelligence." He said this kind of deliveries were done privately at midnight or in the early morning.

"You don't do that in a very public place like the residence of Estrada, which is always full of people and security personnel," he said.

Jose Flaminiano, another Estrada lawyers, said the inspection was a major victory for the defense panel. He said the charges that Estrada received P130 million as kickbacks from the tobacco excise tax could not hold water in the light of the result of the inspection.

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Senate minority presses Enrile's ouster from CA

By TJ Burgonio

THE SENATE minority bloc would push for the ouster of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile from the Commission on Appointments in the face of the majority's hardline stance to lay off from the issue.

"We're continuing with our move. We're not giving up," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. declared yesterday, insisting the opposition was merely exercising its power to remove a member it had nominated to the powerful body.

Pimentel, however, voiced hope the majority would soften up and act on his earlier manifestation that some members of the opposition had agreed to drop Enrile from the CA.

"The ball is now in the hands of the majority to give the formality of their concurrence to the move taken by the minority to replace Manong Johnny (Enrile) with Jamby Madrigal," he said at a press forum in Manila.

This would break the impasse between the majority and minority blocs on how to resolve the issue, he said.

Pimentel found an ally in former Sen. Francisco "Kit" Tatad who argued that it was logical for the majority to support the manifestation of the minority after it was presented on the floor.

Taking note

"They don't have to ratify it even. They only have to take note," Tatad, a former party mate of Enrile at the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, said at the same forum at the Ambassadors Hotel.

Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan had declared that the majority bloc would act on the manifestation on two conditions: if the opposition had exhausted all means to resolve it and if the controversy has started to affect their legislative work.

Earlier, Pangilinan and Senate President Franklin Drilon, who chairs the CA, had taken the position that the minority bloc should resolve the issue among themselves.

On Tuesday, Pimentel manifested on the floor that he, Sergio Osmeña III, Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Jinggoy Estrada, Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, Alfredo Lim and Jamby Madrigal had agreed to recall Enrile from the CA.

They accused Enrile of supporting Malacañang's appointees at the CA hearings, contrary to his role as minority leader in the body.

Enrile, however, insisted he could only be ousted as the CA minority leader, but not as a member, arguing that his claim to a seat in the body was based on his party affiliation. He also flatly denied his colleagues' charges.

Pimentel agreed with Enrile's contention that one's membership in the CA was based on his party affiliation, as provided for by the Constitution, but stressed that it was he who nominated Enrile to the body.

"It's the minority which decides what particular senator will go and because I happened to be Minority Leader at the time we were assigning senators to various committees and the commission, I was the one who mentioned the name of Senator Enrile as a member of the CA," he said.

"The party becomes relevant only in the matter of sending the senator to the Senate," Pimentel said.

A staff of Enrile clarified that Estrada, Ejercito and Lim were not a party to the agreement, but Pimentel insisted they were.

At the forum, Pimentel reiterated that the majority bloc couldn't shirk from its role to act on his manifestation and concur with it.

'Pontius Pilate'

"I think some members of the majority are acting under a wrong notion that they have absolutely nothing to say on this. They have nothing to say if their intention is to tell us what to do, but the formality of their saying 'yes' ... [is another matter]," he said.

He accused administration senators of "acting like Pontius Pilate washing their hands because they also have an objective here: they want to keep the minority in a sort of a destabilized situation so that we can't move."

Pangilinan said the majority should not be blamed for the minority's woes. "Our refusal to interfere at this point is simply because we do not know for certain who truly speaks for the minority," he said.

Malacañang also does not want to intervene in the ouster issue, although it is thankful to Enrile for the opposition senator's support on certain issues.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Palace would rather not interfere in the dispute involving the Senate minority.

"We can only go by what we have seen or read, and on by a case by case basis the good senator supported the Palace on some issues and we thank him for the support," Bunye told reporters Thursday.

He mentioned, for one, the support given by Enrile to the Value Added Tax bill in Congress.

Gabriel Claudio, presidential adviser on political affairs, said yesterday he did not think the positions taken by Enrile should be labeled as pro-administration or not.

Claudio said that Enrile might have supported some issues as "a matter of conviction."

With a report from Christine O. Avendaño

UNARMED REBELS
Unarmed members and supporters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front raise clenched fists as they pass a military checkpoint in Maguindanao. They are on their way to a consultative assembly as part of the peace talks process with the government. AP

300 Filipinos in Iraq camp go on strike

By Nikko Dizon

SOME 300 overseas Filipino workers employed at a US military camp in Iraq went on strike this week to protest poor working conditions, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

The workers, under contract with Prime Projects International and Kellogg Brown and Root, are based in Camp Cooke in the province of Taji.

According to a DFA statement, "on 24 May 2005, 300 Filipino workers brought to the attention of PPI (Prime Projects International) and KBR (Kellogg Brown and Root), manpower and logistics providers for the sprawling US Base, their employment contract disputes pertaining to working conditions and working hours within the base."

The OFWs working at the US controlled Camp Cooke were later joined by 500 other foreign workers from India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, the DFA said.

"The (OFWs') issue on working conditions basically pertains to the weather—that there should be enough facilities to protect them from the heat and the cold," Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Asuque said initial information the DFA received about the labor dispute did not mention maltreatment in the work place.

Asuque added that Charge d' Affaires Ricardo Endaya of the Philippine Embassy in Iraq was still "sorting out issues, such as ideal working hours."

The PPI held talks with the OFWs but a deadlock prompted the company to prepare for the return of Filipino workers to the Philippines by booking two chartered flights via the Dubai International Airport.

But Endaya convinced labor leaders to end their protest and return to work by promising to take up their grievances and concerns with PPI and KBR officials.

US-based KBR manages noncombat related operations of military installations in Iraq, while PPI recruits Filipino workers for them, the DFA said.

The 300 OFWs have been in Iraq before the government's deployment ban of Filipino workers to Iraq in July last year and possess legal working papers from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

Upon Endaya's recommendation, the DFA through Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Jose Brillantes, has brought the complaints of the OFWs to the attention of the POEA. *With AFP*

Govs bare plot vs GMA

THE LEAGUE of Provinces of the Philippines yesterday revealed an alleged plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo, replace her with Vice President Noli de Castro and promote one of the provincial governors to the second most powerful office in the land.

League president Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado said he and several governors received by mail letters from a "shadowy" group calling itself Kasama, inciting the governors to support moves to remove Ms Arroyo through extra-constitutional means.

"It was signed by a certain Vicente Concepcion. He gave his addresses as Sampaloc, Manila and Bulacan," Aumentado said in a news conference yesterday.

"We've already submitted copies of the letter to the police and the military for verification and further investigation," he said. *Norman Bordadora*

No more new taxes, says GMA adviser

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AFTER the expanded valued-added tax (VAT), the government is unlikely to impose new tax measures in the next five years, Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said yesterday.

Salceda said the VAT was likely to be the last tax measure to be endorsed and signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo under her term.

"With the VAT law, the new component of the fiscal reform program is complete. We don't need more new taxes," said Salceda, an economic adviser of the President.

This means that new tax proposals such as the proposed franchise tax on telecommunications firms or the 50-centavo tax on text messages were not likely to get Malacañang's backing.

Salceda said there was no need to impose new taxes because the expanded VAT should generate at least P95 billion with the inclusion of petroleum and electricity sales in the coverage of the 10 percent tax.

"The P95 billion projected hike in revenues, which only assumes a 70 percent collection efficiency rate, is substantially higher than the P80 billion the government needed to reduce its budget deficit within the next five years," said Salceda in a phone interview.

When collected fully, the expanded VAT would generate up to P125 billion in new revenues annually.

Salceda was with the President in Albay yesterday where she called him her "brightest student" during her teaching years at the Ateneo.

The VAT bill, which also gives the President a standby authority to raise the VAT rate to 12 percent starting next year, was on top of the P16 billion additional revenues from two other tax bills approved earlier—the increase in excise taxes on alcohol and cigarettes and the lateral attrition bill which rewards or punishes collecting agencies on their revenue performance.

The three tax measures were the only bills approved of the eight tax proposals the President unveiled shortly after her proclamation last year.

Salceda said the President would focus for the rest of her term the privatization of the remaining crown jewels and the improvement of tax collection efforts.

The government's scheduled sale of the National Power Corp.'s transmission and power generation facilities and the sequestered shares in San Miguel Corp. would generate at least P300 billion in new revenues for the government.

Salceda said the privatization of Napocor would complete the government's rationalization of the state power sector. The government is steadily reducing its subsidies on electricity sales by charging market rates to consumers while privatizing Napocor would reduce the government's debt payments. The power subsidies and debt expenses have been largely blamed for the government chronic budget deficit since the 1990s.

2 sisters who failed customs lifestyle check suspended for six months

By Nelson Flores

OMBUDSMAN Simeon Marcelo yesterday suspended for six months without pay two sisters working in the Bureau of Customs who flunked the lifestyle check of the Department of Finance and who allegedly amassed a fortune beyond their lawful income.

"The Office of the Ombudsman found during the initial evaluation that the documentary proofs adduced constitute strong evidence of guilt for dishonesty and grave misconduct," Marcelo said of sisters Ana Marie Concepcion Maglasang and Matilda Concepcion Millare.

Assistant Ombudsman and spokesperson Ernesto Nocos said that an "initial evaluation" of documents submitted by complainants Troy Francis Pizarro, Reynalito Lazaro and Melchor Piol showed "strong evidence" against the two sisters.

Removal from office

Maglasang and Millare had been "preventively" suspended to inhibit them from harassing potential witnesses and tampering evidence that could be used against them.

Marcelo said that if the sisters were found guilty of charges, they could be removed from government service.

Apart from the administrative charges of dishonesty and grave misconduct, Maglasang and Millare also face charges of violating the Anti-Graft Law (RA 3019), Unexplained Wealth Law (RA 1379), Ethical Standards for Public Officials (RA 6713), as well as perjury and falsification of documents.

In its complaint, the DOF said the "substantial property ownership and lifestyles of both sisters were undoubtedly manifestly out of proportion to and cannot, in any manner, be justified by their lawful income."

Authorities were still trying to recover the alleged ill-gotten properties of Maglasang and Millare which include a P1.5-million Lexus and a P1.4-million Ford Expedition.

In its complaint filed with the Ombudsman, the Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS) of the DOF disclosed that the assets of the two sisters should also be the subject of forfeiture proceedings.

Millare's Lexus and Maglasang's Expedition should be "susceptible to forfeiture and reversion proceedings," under the Ill-Gotten Wealth Law (RA 1379) and should be confiscated by government when a civil case is eventually filed in court.

Millare is a special deputy collector at Naia earning almost P20,000 a month while Maglasang is a Customs operation officer assigned at the Port of Manila. RIPS also disclosed that Millare had an "unusual interest" in pirated DVD/VCD shipments since December 2003.

Pirated DVDs

According to the complaint filed by Pizarro, Lazaro and Piol, the Naia Customs Police Division had already "recommended the filing of administrative charges" against Maglasang in connection with shipments of DVDs/VCDs smuggled into the country in January 2004.

"Despite the recommendation made more than a year ago for her alleged interest and involvement in the shipment of purported pirated DVDs, no legal action has been taken against her to date," the complaint read.

Records also showed that Millare had a residence in Valle Verde, that she owned a house and lot in Cubao, agricultural lots in Zambales and Sorsogon City, a 6,000-square meter property in Mariveles, Bataan, and had gone abroad "six times," only three of which was allowed by the DOF.

She also owned several cars, including a speedboat, as well as trucks and vans "purportedly for business purposes."

Among the identified cars aside from the Lexus were a Honda Civic, a Nissan Exalta, a Honda CRV, a 2002 Pajero and a 2004 Toyota RAV4.

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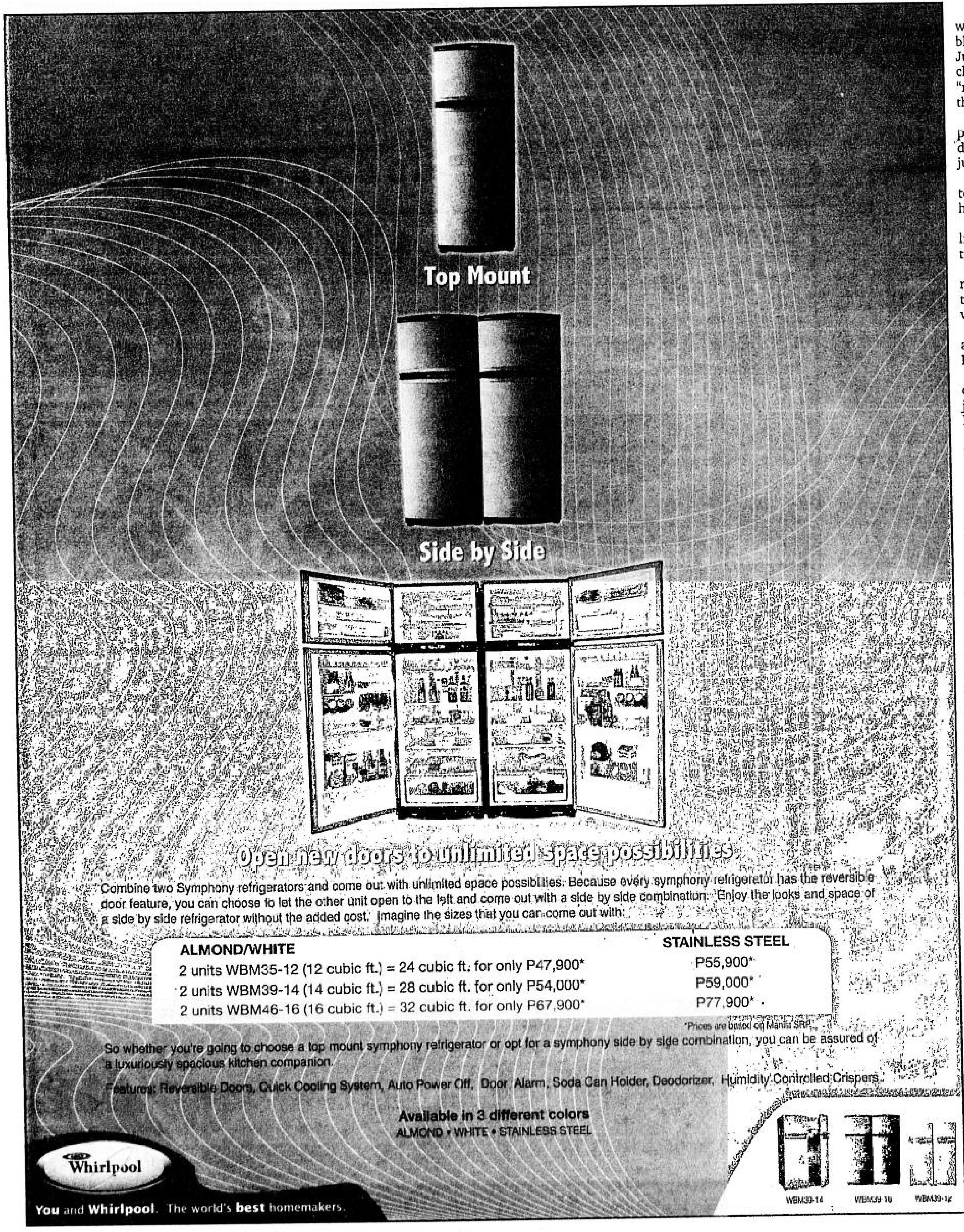

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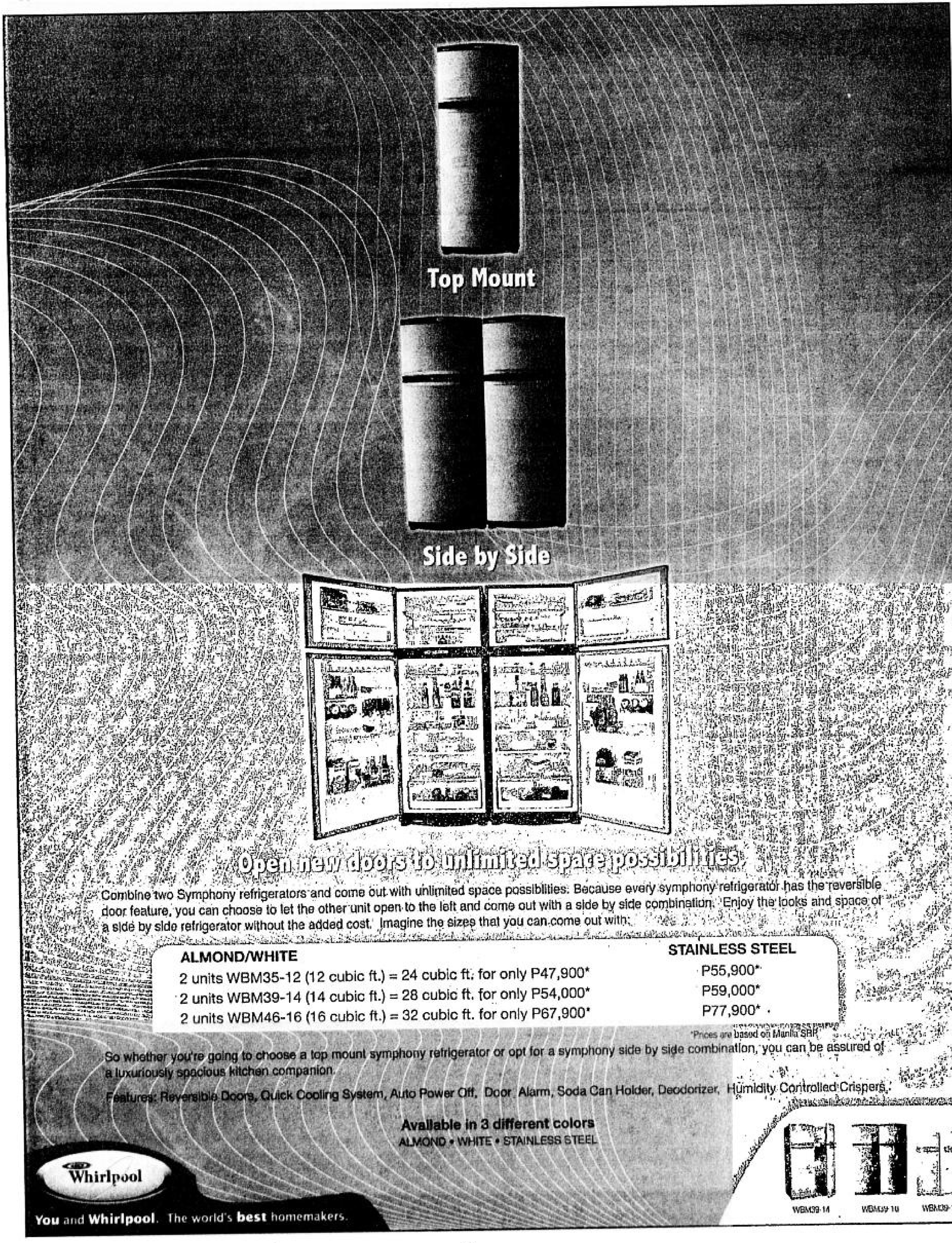

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Villafuerte dares accusers to take lie detector test

By Armand N. Nocum

CAMARINES Sur Gov. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr. yesterday denied any involvement in "jueteng" and challenged his accusers, their supposed handler—Sen. Panfilo Lacson—and journalists to undergo a polygraph test to prove they were telling the truth.

"I am not an operator, not a financier, not a bettor, not coddler and not a payola receiver on jueteng," Villafuerte said.

This developed as the Department of Justice panel investigating jueteng said less than 10 governors linked to jueteng would be the next to be invited by the fact-finding team.

In a letter to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., a copy of which was furnished Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Villafuerte offered to undergo a lie detector test to prove he was not involved in the illegal numbers racket before and after being elected governor in May 2004.

"I have never received, directly or indirectly, any payola that is related to jueteng. In fact, I have never been offered a bribe with monetary value, in cash or in kind," he said.

"I am willing to confirm all these statements under oath and will be willing to submit myself to a polygraph test provided that the alleged 'whistle-blower,' the senator who gathered the alleged information and the media writer to whom it has been released... should also submit themselves to the same polygraph test on questions that I will ask of them," he added.

Villafuerte was earlier named by a former jueteng bagman as among the local government officials operating jueteng in the provinces. The bagman claimed that Villafuerte was one of the jueteng operators giving P19.6 million a month to top police officials in Camp Crame.

The governor said it was just fair that both the accusers and the accused should submit to the same litmus test to prove their claims.

Gonzalez earlier ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to get Villafuerte's comments on reports that he was one of the local officials linked to the illegal numbers racket.

The DOJ formed a panel to investigate the jueteng issue upon orders of President Macapagal-Arroyo. At least three whistle-blowers have linked First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo to jueteng.

Villafuerte admitted that jueteng exists in his province, but said these were "sporadic" or "guerrilla operations."

Reacting to Villafuerte's letter, Gonzalez said that the polygraph test "is an aide, but not admissible as evidence in court."

Asked if they were going to grant Villafuerte's wish, Gonzalez replied: "We'll see."

Church tries new tack vs 'jueteng'

WHO'S the real winner and loser in "jueteng?"

The Catholic Church is trying a new tack in its crusade against the multimillion-peso illegal numbers game by trying to reason with and dissuade the poor who are the game's main bettors.

"The people should once and for all stop allowing themselves to be fooled," said Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales.

Rosales said bettors should realize that jueteng was nothing but "organized extortion" because it squeezes them dry while turning millions of pesos over to gambling operators and their protectors and beneficiaries.

"Once in a while, bettors are allowed to win, but we all know that the result is fixed," he said.

"How much is the pot? P100,000 or P150,000? And how much is the profit for jueteng lords? Millions!" the prelate said.

By patronizing the illegal numbers game, bettors unwittingly help finance the election campaign of an unscrupulous politician or support a corrupt policeman's second family, he pointed out.

"Of course, if you are the policeman receiving P50,000 monthly in jueteng payola, what would stop you having an extra family? A second or a third wife?" he asked.

"It's really evil," Rosales said.

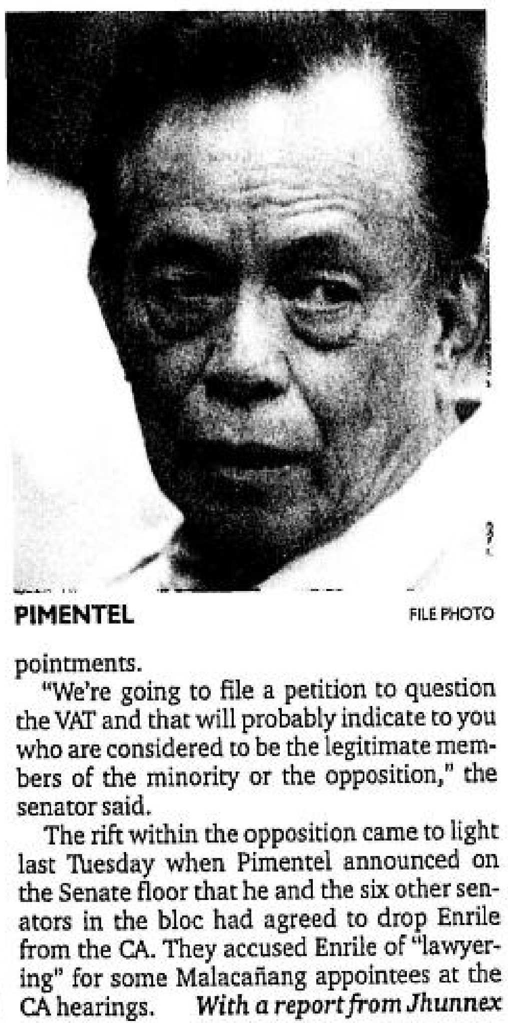
A purported jueteng payola distribution list that Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz gave to the Department of Justice alleges that a top Philippine National Police official receives at least P19.6 million in monthly jueteng payoffs. *Christian V. Esguerra*

VAT law challenged at SC

From page A1

the President with a constitutional power to raise taxes... VAT is a tax," Pimentel said.

"Under the Constitution, the President has the power to adjust tariff rates. There's a reason for that because goods from all over the world enter our country day to day... But not tax."


PIMENTEL FILE PHOTO

Constitutional infirmity

Pimentel pointed out that even the two conditions under which this power could be granted could not cure the "constitutional infirmity." The President is authorized to raise the VAT rate if the VAT tax effort exceeds 2.8 percent of gross domestic product or if the national government deficit exceeds 1.5 percent of GDP.

"You can put a thousand conditionalities, still the mere grant of that power will be constitutionally infirm," he said.

The measure, part of a tax reform package designed to head off a fiscal crisis, is expected to generate at least P28.75 billion in additional revenues this year and P104.2 billion at full implementation next year.

The bill also lifts the exemptions enjoyed by the power, petroleum and other sectors, and raises the corporate income tax from 32 to 35 percent.

Strengthening minority bloc

The petition, Pimentel said, is part of the bloc's efforts "at strengthening ourselves" in the wake of its move to oust Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile from the powerful Commission on Appointments.

"We're going to file a petition to question the VAT and that will probably indicate to you who are considered to be the legitimate members of the minority or the opposition," the senator said.

The rift within the opposition came to light last Tuesday when Pimentel announced on the Senate floor that he and the six other senators in the bloc had agreed to drop Enrile from the CA. They accused Enrile of "lawyering" for some Malacañang appointees at the CA hearings. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Bandera launched as RP's 1st compact newspaper

From page A1

"The revitalized Bandera will be a complete reading experience for the family. It has the handy size and price of small newspapers," said Eileen Mangubat, publisher of IPI's three newspapers.

The new Bandera is targeting the C and D market, particularly in Metro Manila. But separate editions are tailored for other readers outside the capital.

Mangubat said IPI aimed to break the traditional wisdom that tabloids have to dish out sex and violence on their pages in order to succeed.

"With Bandera, we believe it's a matter of putting quality in content in a reader-friendly size," she said.

Readers have an easier time browsing through small-format compacts, whether they are at home, commuting, or in the workplace.

The 14-year-old Bandera was the first tabloid to have a lifestyle section, a feature competitors have imitated. It is also the only small paper with a daily business section. Bandera is acknowledged as the number one national tabloid in Mindanao and the Visayas.

Editor in chief of the new Bandera is Beting Laygo Dolor, former managing editor of California-based Philippine News, and Manila Standard before that. Dolor also had a lengthy stint in BusinessWorld.

The relaunched version will initially have 16 pages in full color and circulated in Luzon and the Visayas. The Mindanao edition will retain its tabloid size for the time being.

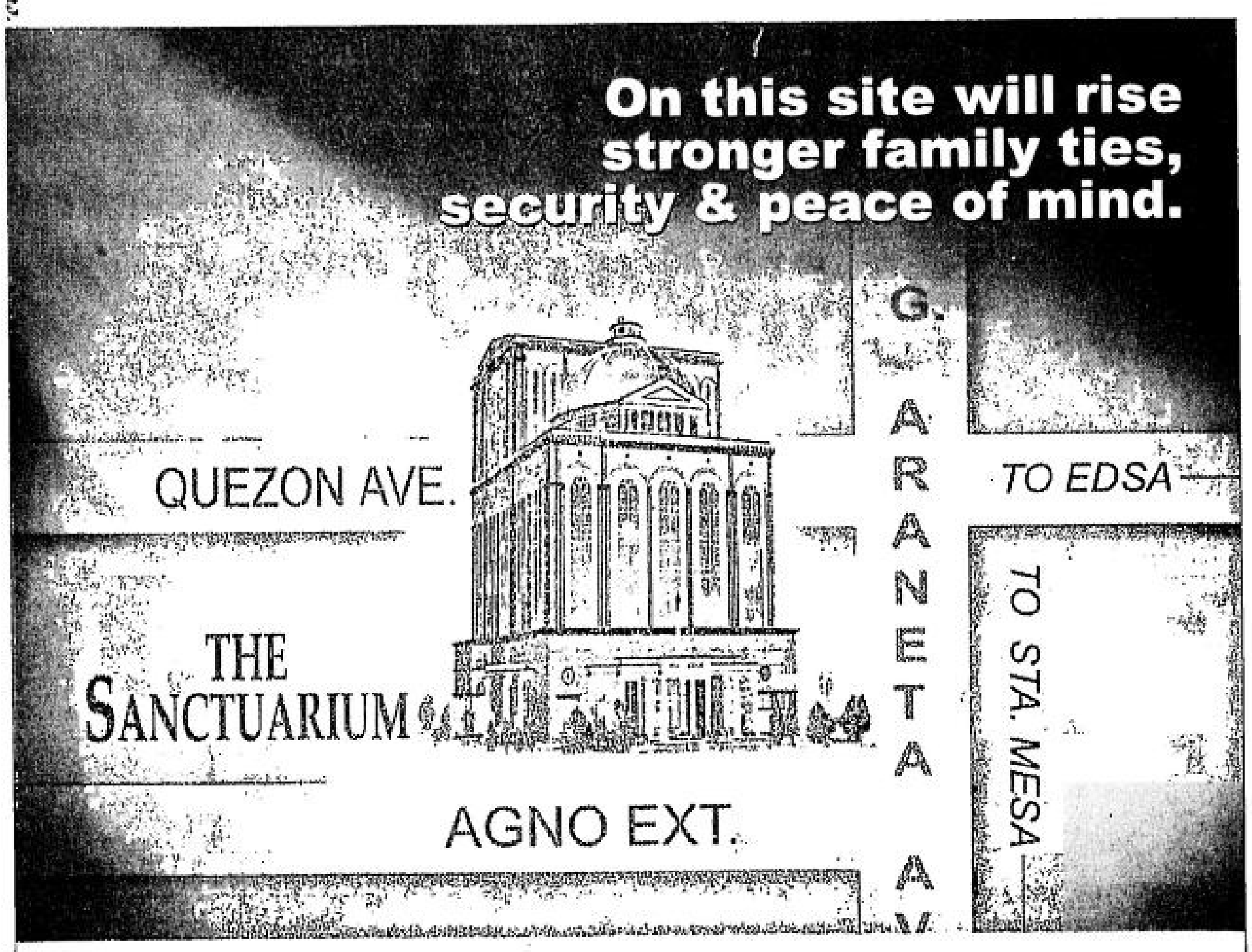
The first issue of the new Bandera hits the streets on May 28, the first day of Flag Day leading to the celebration of Independence Day on June 12, to stress its uniquely for-Filipinos character.

Bandera is the second newspaper of IPI to adopt the compact format. The first was Cebu Daily News, which went compact with an 11-inch by 15-inch format in September last year.

"Switching from broadsheet to compact is a global trend," said Alex Reyes, IPI senior vice president, noting that respected publications such as the Financial Times of London and the San Francisco Examiner have made the switch to the compact format.

Last week, the Wall Street Journal announced that it, too, would go compact by September this year.

IPI's third newspaper is Tumbok, one of the fastest-growing tabloids in the country.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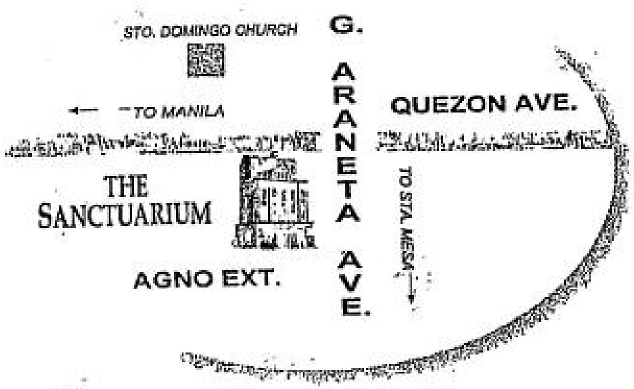

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PROMISING BRAND AWARD

RP population to hit 85.2M this year

By Christian V. Esguerra

FILIPINOS are expected to balloon to 85.2 million this year, said the Commission on Population, citing projections from the National Demographic and Health Survey.

The projection is based mainly on the current 2.36-percent annual population growth rate, according to Tomas Osias, the commission's executive director.

Unless the rate is slowed down, 5,800 more Filipinos would be born in 24 hours, 6.4 million in three years, and 12.6 in six years, he said, citing NDHS estimates.

Osias called on the government to further promote family planning all over the country.

"Seventeen percent of women would like to plan their pregnancy but do not have the means to do so because of the lack of access to family planning services," he said. "That is also the reason why one in three births occur within two years of the previous birth."

The Arroyo administration's main family planning program, , "Ligtas Buntis" of the Department of Health, is on hold following an aggressive launching in February.

The program came under fire from the Catholic Church for promoting artificial birth control methods such as the use of pills, condoms and even the controversial intrauterine device (IUD).

Outgoing Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, who is set to step down on May 31, had admitted he personally preferred natural methods.

His successor, Dr. Francisco Duque III of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. said he would first conduct consultation meetings with Church groups, natural family planning advocates, and health workers before deciding on the fate of Ligtas Buntis.

In the meantime, he suggested that it be renamed "Ligtas na Pagbubuntis" to appease critics who insist that the present title degrades the value pregnancy to the level of disease.

Despite oil price rollback, basic goods unchanged

By Abigail L. Ho

WHILE oil firms have started reducing prices of their products to reflect the softening of world oil prices, the prices of basic necessities and prime commodities will most likely remain unchanged.

Trade Assistant Secretary Norman Hocson explained that oil price surges during the first few months of the year did not have much of an impact on commodity prices. Likewise, the recent price cutbacks would not lead to a decrease in prices of basic goods.

"According to our study, fuel costs account for a minor share in the total production cost of most manufactured and processed commodities. It [varies] from industry to industry, but typically it's about 2 to 3 percent," Hocson said in a statement.

Despite this, he added that the recent local oil price rollbacks would give much needed relief to heavily burdened manufacturers that use fuel in their operations.

"Thus, we should not expect any price increase on basic goods attributed to fuel costs [in the near future]," he said.

Based on the Department of Trade and Industry's monitoring, retail prices of basic goods such as canned food, instant noodles, processed milk, coffee refills, condiments, soaps and detergents generally remained stable these past months.

Local flour prices have even been on a downward trend these past two months, with hard flour now retailing at P600 per 25-kg bag from P620 in February.

Hard flour is used to make pan de sal.

Prices of soft flour, likewise had gone down by P25 per bag during the same period.

The DTI attributed the drop in flour prices to declining international wheat prices, as well as to a decrease in demand for bread and bakery products.

As world oil prices continue to decline, oil firms, a few days ago, slashed gasoline prices by 50 to 55 centavos a liter and diesel and kerosene prices by 30 to 35 centavos a liter.

This latest price rollback is the third in a month for gasoline products, placing the total price reduction at P2.25 a liter. This is the first rollback for diesel after nine successive increases since the start of the year.

Premium unleaded gasoline now retails between P28.70 and P30.67 a liter, diesel sells between P26.15 and P27.50 a liter, while kerosene retails between P27.70 and P28.50 a liter.

Since the start of the year, gasoline prices have gone up eight times or by a total P4.35 a liter, while prices of diesel fuel have increased nine times or by a total P4.55 a liter.

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6 killed in 2 Quezon road accidents

LUCENA CITY—Six persons, including an infant, were killed in two separate vehicular accidents in Quezon province yesterday morning, police report said.

Chief. Insp. Roger Fuentes, Pagbilao police chief, said that at around 6 a.m., a Toyota Corolla with Plate No. NLN-770 and heading toward Bicol, collided with a 10-wheeler truck in a sharp curve along Maharlika Highway in Barangay Malicboy, Pagbilao.

Sharp curve

He identified the fatalities as Ramil Lanson, a resident of Legazpi City and driver of the Toyota car. Also killed were his passengers Luis de la Roca, of San Isidro, Oriental Mindoro; Jovy Dulfo, 22, of Poblacion, Iraya, Camarines Sur and Nash Ramirez, an 8-month-old boy.

A report said the car was negotiating a sharp curve, when it occupied the opposite lane causing it to slam onto the oncoming truck bearing Plate No. TFR-618 and driven by one Lucas Dimayuga.

The victims were rushed to the Jane County Hospital in Pagbilao but were all declared dead on arrival.

Another car passenger, Darlene de la Roca, was treated in the same hospital.

The truck driver has been detained at the Pagbilao municipal jail.

Motorcycle riders

In Barangay Gulang-Gulang here, two motorcycle riders were killed on the spot after their vehicle hit a truck at around 9 a.m.

Police report identified the victims as Jason Antaran, 18, resident of Barangay Iyam, this city and his backrider, Marissa Thiarha, 43.

Investigators said the two overtook a vehicle in a sharp curve in front of the second gate of the military's Southern Luzon Command headquarters when it hit the left side of the oncoming 10-wheeler truck.

The motorcycle rammed the left side rear wheel of the truck and almost crushed the victim's bodies. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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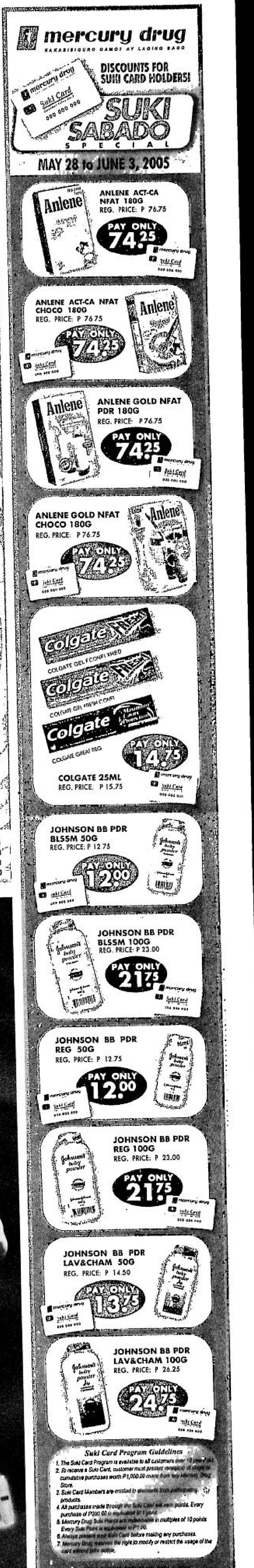

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Suicide bomb attack at Pakistan Muslim shrine kills 18 worshippers

ISLAMABAD—A suicide bomber blew himself up in the middle of a crowd of mainly Shiite Muslim worshippers at a Pakistani shrine Friday, killing at least 18 people and injuring dozens, officials and witnesses said.

Hundreds of pilgrims were attending an annual religious celebration at the Bari Imam shrine in the village of Nurpur, just north of the capital Islamabad, when the blast occurred, witnesses said.

The majority of the people marking the anniversary of a 17th-century Muslim saint's death were members of Pakistan's minority Shiite community, witnesses said. In previous days the worshippers have been mainly Sunnis.

"There were pools of blood everywhere and the bomb scattered body parts inside and outside the shrine. It was a very gory, sickening scene," witness Mohammed Amjad said.

Police found a decapitated head lying on the floor of the shrine some yards away from a dead body, and said a suicide bomber may have carried out the attack.

"The death toll is 18," head of the national crisis management cell Brig. Javed Cheema said.

"Many other people are injured. We are trying to normalize the situation," added interior secretary Syed Kamal Shah.

Police cordoned off the scene after the explosion at about 11:20 a.m. while emergency services worked at the scene and ambulances ferried the dead and injured to hospital, witnesses said.

"The congregation was in progress, around 400 people were there, when a man walked in and started toward the stage where a Shiite leader was delivering a sermon," witnesss Amjad said.

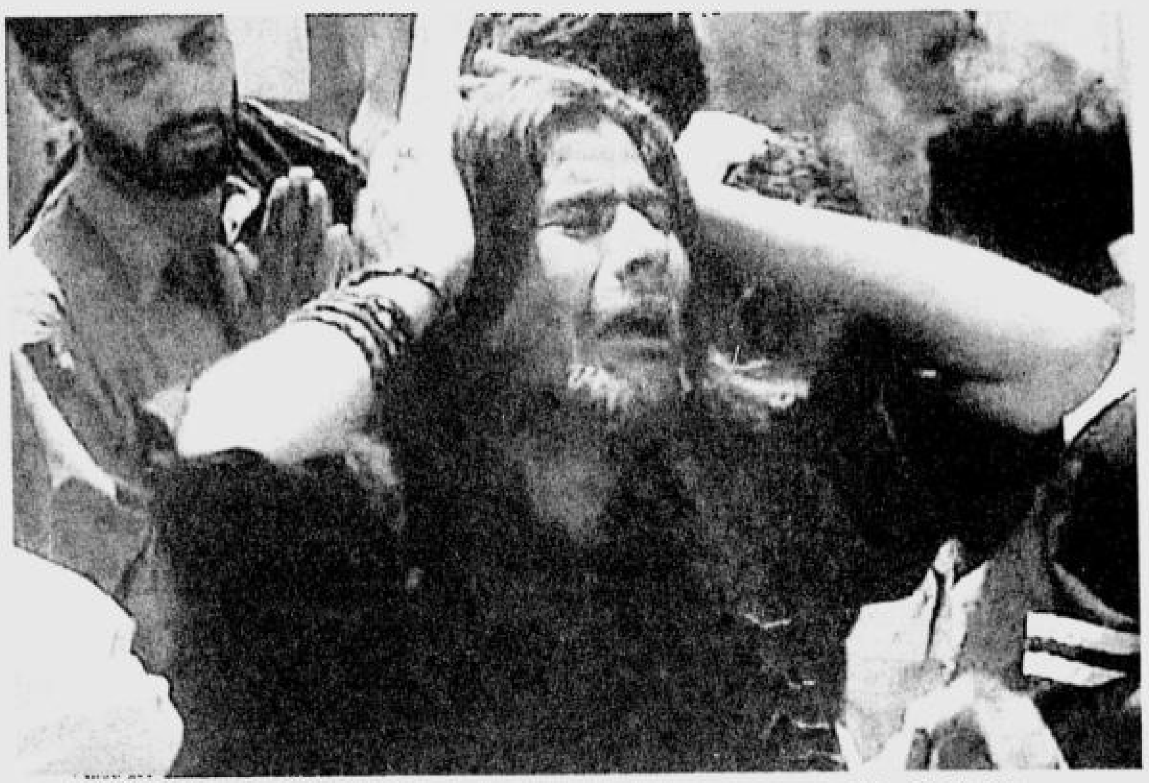
"When the man got close to the stage there was a big explosion and there was panic all around."

Television footage showed worshippers in traditional Pakistani clothing wailing and beating themselves amid scenes of chaos after the blast.

Thousands of minority Shiite and majority Sunni Muslims have been killed in Pakistan in sectarian violence through bomb blasts, suicide bombing and in targeted killings in recent years.

The Sunni custodian of the shrine and two other people were shot dead near the compound in February. Early this month police said they had killed the suspects behind custodian Raja Akram's death.

Both sects claim the shrine is theirs but it has been controlled by Sunnis for the past two decades. Shiites make up about 20 percent of Pakistan's 150 million predominantly Muslim population.



VIDEO grab shows a man reacting at the site of a suicide bombing in Islamabad May 27. The blast occurred at the Bari Imam shrine, which is close to Pakistan's main government buildings and the diplomatic enclave, where many embassies and diplomatic residences are located. REUTERS

The shrine, in the village of Nurpur just north of Islamabad, is dedicated to Sufi Muslim saint Shah Abdul Latif Kazimi, known as Bari Imam, who helped bring Islam to the region.

Each year in May thousands of worshippers gather at the shrine.

In March, 39 Sunni and Shiite devotees died in a blast at another Sufi shrine in the remote southwestern town of Fatahpur.

A group of senior Pakistani Muslim clerics this month declared suicide bombings and attacks on ordinary citizens and places of worship are un-Islamic.

Last year was one of the bloodiest yet amid ongoing sectarian tension in Pakistan, with at least 160 people dying in a series of tit-for-tat attacks.

Police said this month they had arrested two Islamic militants from a banned Sunni Islamist group including a suspected would-be suicide bomber involved in a plot to attack a religious rally last year. *AFP*

Bird flu kills over 1,000 migratory birds in China

BEIJING—A strain of bird flu deadly to humans has killed more than 1,000 migratory birds in northwest China, an agriculture ministry official said on Friday, more than five times the number of birds initially reported dead.

Earlier this week, China sealed off nature reserves and rushed more than 3 million doses of bird flu vaccine to far-flung Qinghai province after migratory birds were found dead from the H5N1 strain.

"What we have been doing is preventing domestic fowl and people from having contact with wild migrant birds," Jia Youling, director general of the veterinary bureau of the agriculture ministry, told a news conference.

None of the 2.18 million domestic birds in the province had been found to be infected, he said. He dismissed rumors any humans had been infected.

Poultry in Qinghai and the far western regions of Xinjiang and Tibet have been the targets of a compulsory vaccination campaign in an effort to control the disease and prevent it from spreading to domestic fowl or to humans.

China successfully curbed an outbreak in the same region last year, burning about 145,000 culled birds.

But experts said there was still a chance domestic poultry could be at risk, since they often share water and feeding sources with wild birds. *Reuters*

Chirac makes dramatic last-ditch plea for a French 'yes' for EU charter

PARIS—President Jacques Chirac concluded with a flourish—"Long live Europe and long live France," he said. Then, he turned the destinies of the nation and the continent over to French voters.

Their choice Sunday: a simple "oui" or "non" to a constitution that is planned as Europe's next big step in a 50-year process of bringing together nations and peoples who fought centuries of wars.

With his hopes for Europe and a considerable chunk of presidential prestige on the line, Chirac gave it his all in a televised last-ditch address aimed at staving off the seeming increasingly likelihood that the French will vote the landmark European treaty down.

"On Sunday, each of us will have a part of France's destiny in their hands," he said.

"What a responsibility if France, a founder nation of Europe, took the risk of breaking the union of our continent."

By boosting French voting power in European Union decisions, the treaty will help France "defend its interests and remain one of the motors of Europe," he said.

But a French rejection would be regarded by other Europeans as "a no to Europe."

"It would open a period of divisions, of doubts, of uncertainties," he warned in the address from the presidential Elysee Palace, his last of a tumultuous campaign.

Chirac urged the French not to turn the plebiscite into a vote of sanction against his government, but he did not address speculation that he will fire his unpopular prime minister if the outcome is "no."

"We must not mistake the question," said Chirac. "It is not about saying yes or no to the government. It is about your future, that of your children, of the future of France and the future of Europe." *AP*

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New famine that may kill millions feared as food crisis grips N. Korea

SEOUL—A food crisis on the scale of the mid-90s famine that is blamed for the deaths of millions in North Korea could occur again unless urgent action is taken, a UN humanitarian group said here Friday.

"Ladies and gentlemen, there is a food crisis in North Korea and that food crisis is getting worse by the week and by the day," Tony Banbury, the World Food Program's (WFP) Asia director, told a press conference.

"I don't want to be overly alarmist and normally I am not. But I fear that in the current situation we may well be headed toward a very serious crisis... we could be back in a situation on a level that existed in the mid-90s. It's possible."

The WFP had almost exhausted its entire stock of food destined to keep 6.5 million North Koreans, nearly a third of the population, from starvation. Banbury said by August five million of those would be without food aid.

He said the WFP needed 504,000 tons to meet the needs of North Korea's most vulnerable people: the elderly, children, pregnant women and nursing mothers. Currently there was a 274,000-ton shortfall.

Last week the United States, a key donor along with the European Union and South Korea, said it was in talks with the WFP about food aid and had until the end of the year to make a decision about North Korea.

But Banbury said that would be too late for millions of hungry North Koreans.

"We cannot wait, and more importantly, 6.5 million North Koreans cannot wait until the end of the year to receive additional assistance."

The United States has continued to provide food aid to North Korea despite the nuclear standoff dating back to October 2002, insisting humanitarian aid should not be linked to the dispute.

However, Washington reduced its contribution by half from the previous year to 50,000 tons in 2004 and has expressed fears some aid is being diverted to North Korea's military.

Last year North Korea announced new restrictions on monitoring of food distribution by foreign agencies.

But Banbury said the WFP had seen no evidence, despite thousands of monitoring visits dating back to 1996, of any diversion.

He said North Korea's elite, the military, gets first choice of all the best food produced in North Korea and neither wants nor needs inferior produce such as maize that the WFP offers to the destitute.

"We produce for instance a lot of porridge, like rice milk blend. Its enriched baby food basically. I don't believe soldiers are eating baby food. It just doesn't make intuitive sense. They don't need to do it," he said.

NORTH Korean children eat fortified biscuits provided by the United Nations World Food Program at a primary school in Munchon county, Kangwon province in this April 27 photo. AP

Accurate figures on the number of deaths caused by famine in North Korea in the mid-90s are unavailable but western aid agencies said up to two million may have died from hunger and disease.

Banbury said a number of factors causing the current crisis could combine to trigger a similar humanitarian disaster.

Firstly, North Korea's economic reforms introduced in July 2002 to free wages and prices from state control had put food prices beyond the reach of millions of people.

The salary of an average factory worker or mid-level civil servant is about 2,000 to 2,500 North Korea won a month, he said, enough for either one liter of vegetable oil or one kilogram of maize.

"But they can't afford both, and if they buy either, they can't afford anything else (for the entire month)," he said.

And while international food aid diminishes, North Korea's own Public Distribution System on which 70 percent of the people depend for survival was winding down, with daily rations cut from 300 grams a day to 250 last year.

"What the government is able to provide the people now... is a starvation ration and there are indications from the government to the World Food Program that this will be further cut to 200 grams in June or July," Banbury said. *AFP*

Iraq rebels down US chopper; 2 GIs die

BAGHDAD—Two US soldiers were killed when insurgents shot down their helicopter, the military said Friday, as the Iraqi government sealed off Baghdad in a bid to quell mounting attacks on the capital.

Meanwhile, speculation continued over the fate of al-Qaida's ringleader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, reported to have been badly wounded and the focus of a spate of conflicting Internet claims.

The dead US soldiers were flying in one of two helicopters attacked by insurgent gunfire which crashed as they were carrying out a support mission for coalition troops near the rebel stronghold of Baquba late Thursday.

The second chopper managed to land at a US air base after sustaining damage, it said, with US forces securing the area around the crash site.

With car bombs exploding almost daily in the capital, the government has started a vast operation to seal off Baghdad using tens of thousands of Iraqi police and soldiers and setting up hundreds of extra checkpoints.

"We're going to set up a security cordon around Baghdad... and it will be impossible for terrorists to cross," said Defense Minister Saadun al-Dulaimi, adding that the plan would soon be extended to the provinces.

"The objective is to pass from a defensive position to an offensive one and to put the capacities of defense and interior ministry forces to the best use."

In the northwest, around 1,000 US and Iraqi troops continued their operation in the Euphrates Valley town of Haditha in a bid to rout insurgents loyal to Zarqawi who fled an earlier operation near the Syrian border.

Zarqawi was reported wounded last week with a bullet wound between his shoulder and his chest, according to unverifiable statements on Internet websites, though confusion remained over whether a deputy had already been appointed in his place.

Ten suspected militants, including a Muslim cleric, have been killed in the sweep so far, the US military said, with one marine killed on Thursday.

"We were able to achieve what we believe is total surprise, and we continue to do our series of coordinated searches for insurgents and for caches of munitions and weapons," said Col. Stephen Davis, in charge of the American end of the operation.

The operation in Haditha, some 120 km from the Syrian border, comes after a week-long sweep earlier this month around al-Qaim, next to the frontier, in which at least 100 insurgents and nine US troops were killed.

Both operations are on the main road from Damascus to Baghdad, which US and Iraqi authorities believe is the main thoroughfare for insurgents they say are entering from Syria, charges strenuously denied by Damascus.

Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari said last week that Baghdad would hold talks with Damascus soon to demand action against insurgents infiltrating the border, but on Thursday added that a number of problems need to be resolved before such a meeting could take place.

With Damascus and Baghdad continuing to seek an amicable solution to the alleged infiltration, the US military was reportedly pressing for a buffer zone to be set up along the border in order to stem the flow of militants.

The 10-km wide security zone is just one of several options put forward by the US military to "deal with Syria's" alleged involvement in Iraq, the Al-Hayat daily said, quoting "informed, diplomatic sources." *AFP*

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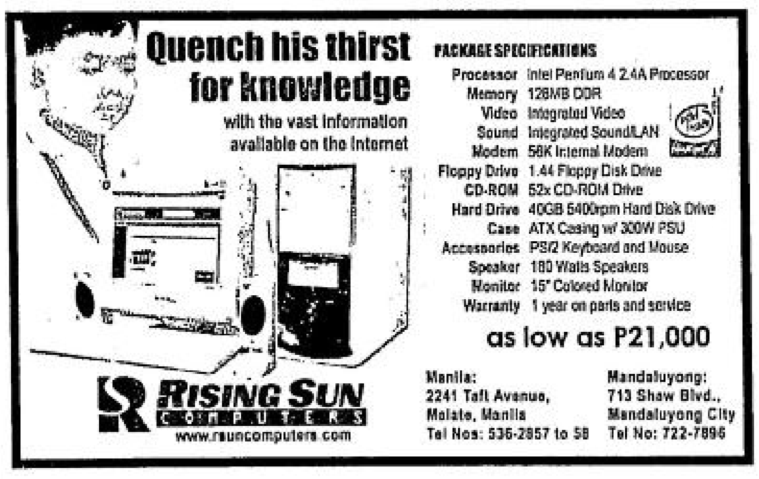
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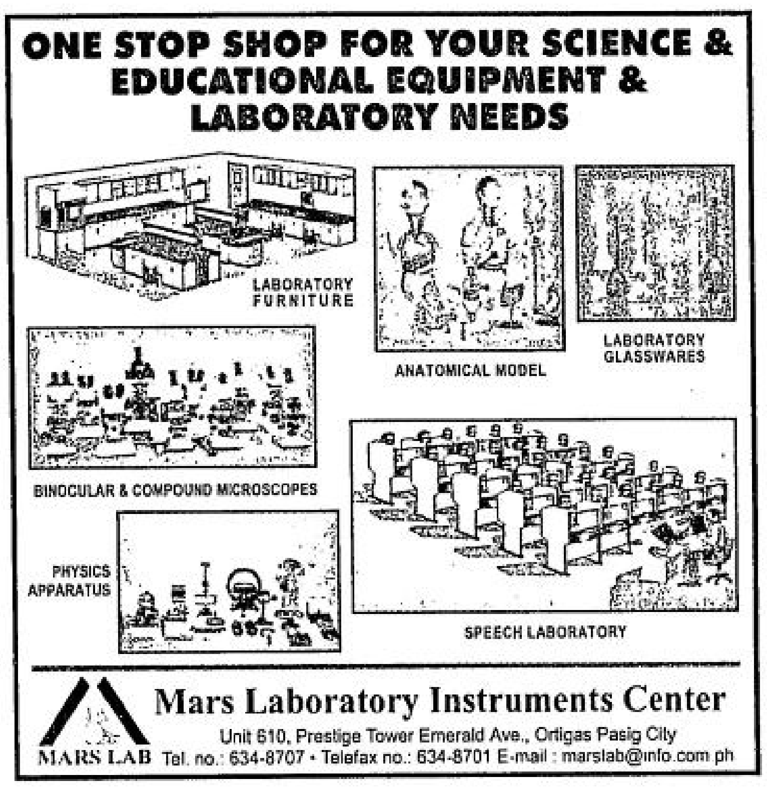
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Bali court sentences Aussie beauty therapist 20 years for pot smuggle

BALI, Indonesia—An Indonesian court sentenced a young Australian beauty therapist to 20 years in jail on Friday for smuggling marijuana into the holiday island of Bali in a verdict that could put a strain on ties.

Lawyers for Schapelle Corby, 27, said they would appeal the ruling, which triggered outrage from her family. Australian callers to radio stations in the country urged an end to aid to the world's most populous Muslim nation.

"The panel of judges declares the defendant legally and convincingly guilty of the crime of illegal importation of narcotics," chief judge Linton Sirait told a hearing that was watched live in Australia.

As soon as Sirait read the verdict, Corby's mother, Rosleigh Rose, shouted at the three judges on the panel: "Liar, liar. Honey, we are going to take you home." Wearing pink trousers and a black blouse, an emotional Corby turned to her mother and pleaded with her to calm down.

"Mum, stop, it's okay," she cried.

Standing for the verdict, Corby kept mouthing the word "20" in Indonesian, clearly stunned by the sentence.

Prosecutors had demanded life in jail for Corby, who has argued the 4.1 kg of drugs found by Bali airport officials in her unlocked bag last year were planted.

The trial has gripped Australia, which has enjoyed a period of warm relations with Indonesia after years of rockiness.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said he did not believe the case would damage ties.

But public opinion in Australia is behind Corby, with newspaper polls showing 90 percent of Australians believe she was innocent. Her plight has triggered death threats against Indonesian diplomats in Australia.

"An enormous amount of abuse directed to Indonesia and public criticism of Indonesia is not going to help. At the end of the day it is much more likely to be counterproductive than productive," Downer told reporters.

Corby's lawyers have insisted many people could have put the drugs into her bodyboard bag along the way from Brisbane, near where she lives, to Bali, especially because it was not locked.

She changed planes in Sydney and her defense team has said she was the victim of a drug ring running narcotics from Brisbane to Sydney. For some reason, the drugs were not removed from her bag in Sydney, the defense has said. *Reuters*

CORBY shouting to her family after she was found guil
kg of marijuana into Bali last year.

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Australians furious at s

SYDNEY—Many Australians reacted with shock and anger on Friday after an Indonesian court sentenced a young Australian beauty therapist to 20 years in jail for smuggling marijuana into the resort island of Bali.

Not since Lindy Chamberlain's trial over claims that a dingo killed her baby Azaria in the Australian outback in the 1980s has a trial gripped Australia like Schapelle Corby's.

Corby was arrested last October after Indonesian customs found 4.1 kg of marijuana in her bodyboard bag when she arrived on Bali. She says she does not know who put the drugs in her bag, suggesting corrupt Australian airline baggage handlers.

Shopping center and hotel televisions across Australia broadcast the verdict live, attracting crowds of lunchtime workers who watched in disbelief when Corby was given 20 years.

Many callers to radio talk shows were incensed, and some said they regretted making donations to Indonesian tsunami victims. Others called for Australians to boycott Bali.

Sydney 2GB radio announcer Chris Smith said Corby's 20-year sentence was "hard and insulting," adding he was horrified by reports that the prosecution would appeal for a longer jail term.

"It appeared awfully barbaric from what I could see and hear," said Smith, adding that he had felt "sick in the stomach" watching the live TV broadcast of the sentencing.

Former firebrand politician Pauline Hanson called on Australians to shun Indonesia. "I'd say to Australians don't go near the place, keep away from it, boycott it," she said.

"It may be them who are in Schapelle Corby's shoes next time around," said Hanson, who was branded xenophobic when she called for a cut in Asian immigration. Tourism is the economic backbone of Bali, which is a popular destination for Australians.

Prime Minister John Howard said he understood why Australians felt so deeply about the Corby case. "The fact that we are a nation whose young travel so much, it is an issue that has touched this country very directly," he said.

A number of radio callers questioned Corby's 20-year jail term compared with more lenient sentences for Indonesians convicted of involvement in the bombing of two Bali nightclubs in 2002 which
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opposition," he said.

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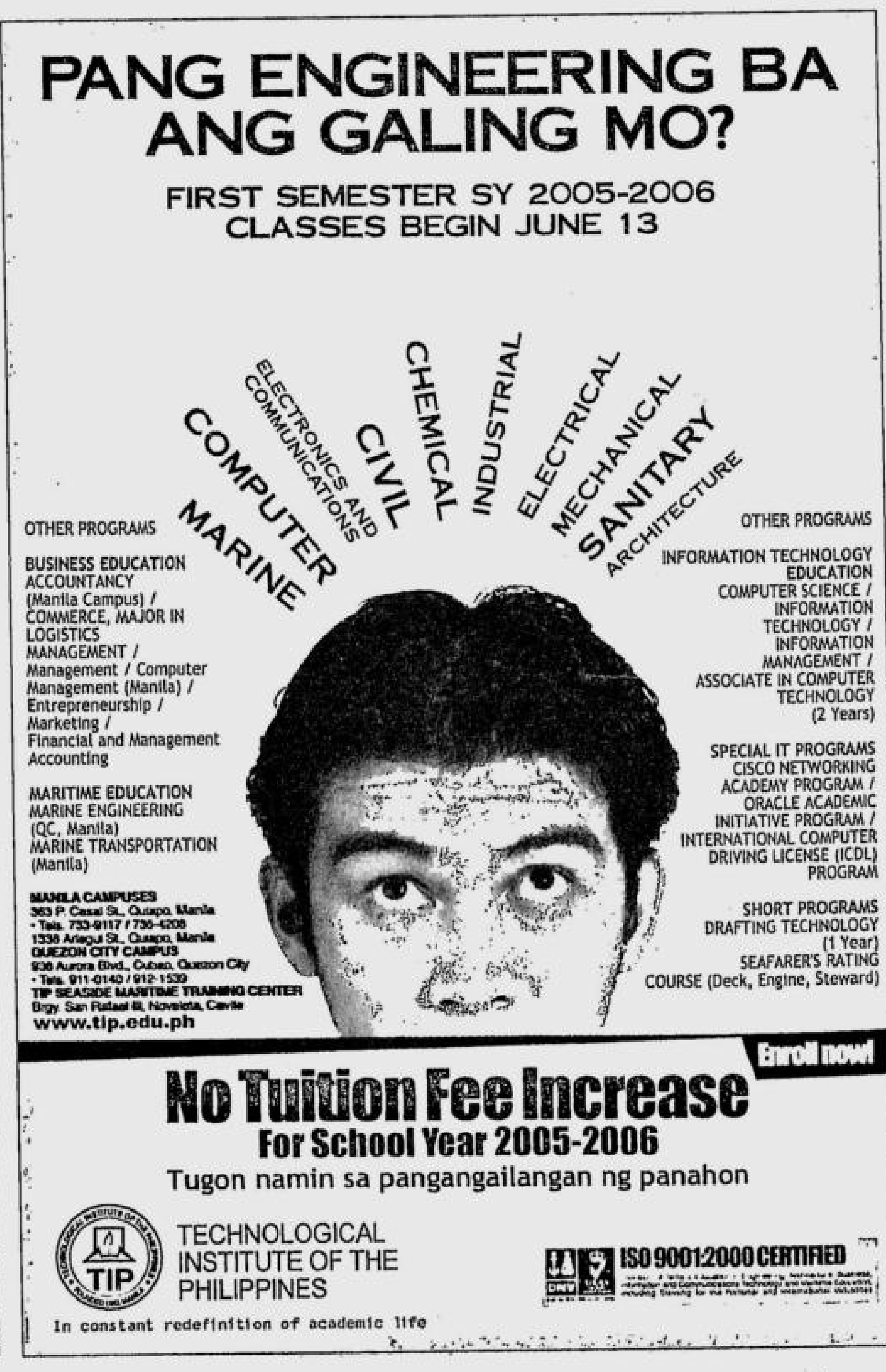

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ralia increased police se- around Indonesia's em- n the capital, Canberra, on as protesters gathered car- banner "Free Schapelle."

n't think she is guilty and n't have to rot away in an sian jail," said Ben Oquist the embassy.

spaper polls show 90 per- Australians believe Corby cent. A Sky Australia tele- poll found 36 percent of thought her sentence was rsh and 56 percent labelled justice. *Reuters*

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Guantanamo probe finds 5 Koran abuse cases

WASHINGTON—The US military has identified five incidents of "mishandling of a Koran" by US personnel at Guantanamo Bay, but found no credible evidence that the Muslim holy book had been flushed down a toilet, the commander of the prison said on Thursday.

Brig. Gen. Jay Hood refused to specify the nature of the mishandling of the Koran at the prison for foreign terrorism suspects at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, other than to say it did not involve placing it in a toilet.

An FBI agent quoted a detainee in an August 2002 document made public on Wednesday as saying guards had thrown a Koran in a toilet. Hood said military investigators interviewed that man this month, but did not directly ask him whether he had seen US personnel put a Koran in a toilet.

But Hood told a Pentagon briefing: "I'd like you to know that we have found no credible evidence that a member of the Joint Task Force at Guantanamo Bay ever flushed a Koran down a toilet."

Hood said two US Guantanamo staffers had been disciplined. One was transferred to other duties, Hood said. He did not describe the other case.

Giving preliminary findings of a 12-day-old military inquiry into treatment of the Koran at Guantanamo, Hood said investigators turned up 13 allegations of mishandling the Koran, with five confirmed cases of "what could be broadly defined as mishandling of a Koran."

Four US guards and one interrogator were involved in the cases, three of which appeared to be deliberate mishandling and two accidental, Hood said.

Four of the five cases took place before written guidelines were issued in January 2003 on handling the Koran at Guantanamo, Hood said.

Hood also said US military investigators this month interviewed the detainee quoted in the August 2002 document.

Hood said this detainee did not mention during the May 14 interview that US personnel had placed a Koran in a toilet.

"The guards in the detention facility do not treat him well. Their behavior is bad. About five months ago, the guards beat the detainees. They flushed a Koran in the toilet," the FBI agent wrote, summarizing the detainee's comments.

Hood said the detainee, who US officials have not identified, said at the May 14 interview he had not been beaten or abused but that he had heard rumors that other detainees had been.

"We then proceeded to ask him about any incidents where he had seen the Koran defiled, desecrated or mishandled, and he allowed as how he hadn't, but he heard that guards at some other point and time had done this," Hood said.

But Hood said investigators did not directly ask the detainee about a Koran being placed in a toilet. "I do not believe they used that word toilet," he said.

FBI documents also contained accounts of detainees telling FBI agents that US personnel at Guantanamo kicked the Koran or threw it to the floor and beat prisoners.

The issue of whether the Koran had been thrown in a toilet at Guantanamo has generated controversy globally in recent weeks.

The Bush administration denounced as wrong a May 9 Newsweek article, later retracted by the magazine, that stated US interrogators at Guantanamo had flushed a Koran down a toilet to try to make detainees talk. Violent protests erupted in some Muslim countries following the article's publication and at least 16 people died in rioting in Afghanistan.

The United States now holds about 520 detainees at Guantanamo, a high-security prison opened in January 2002 for non-US citizens caught in the US war on terrorism.

Eight allegations of mishandling the Koran were not confirmed, Hood said. These involved six in which guards either accidentally touched a Koran, touched it within the scope of their duties or did not touch the book at all, he said. Two additional incidents involved interrogators who either touched or stood over a Koran, Hood said. *Reuters*

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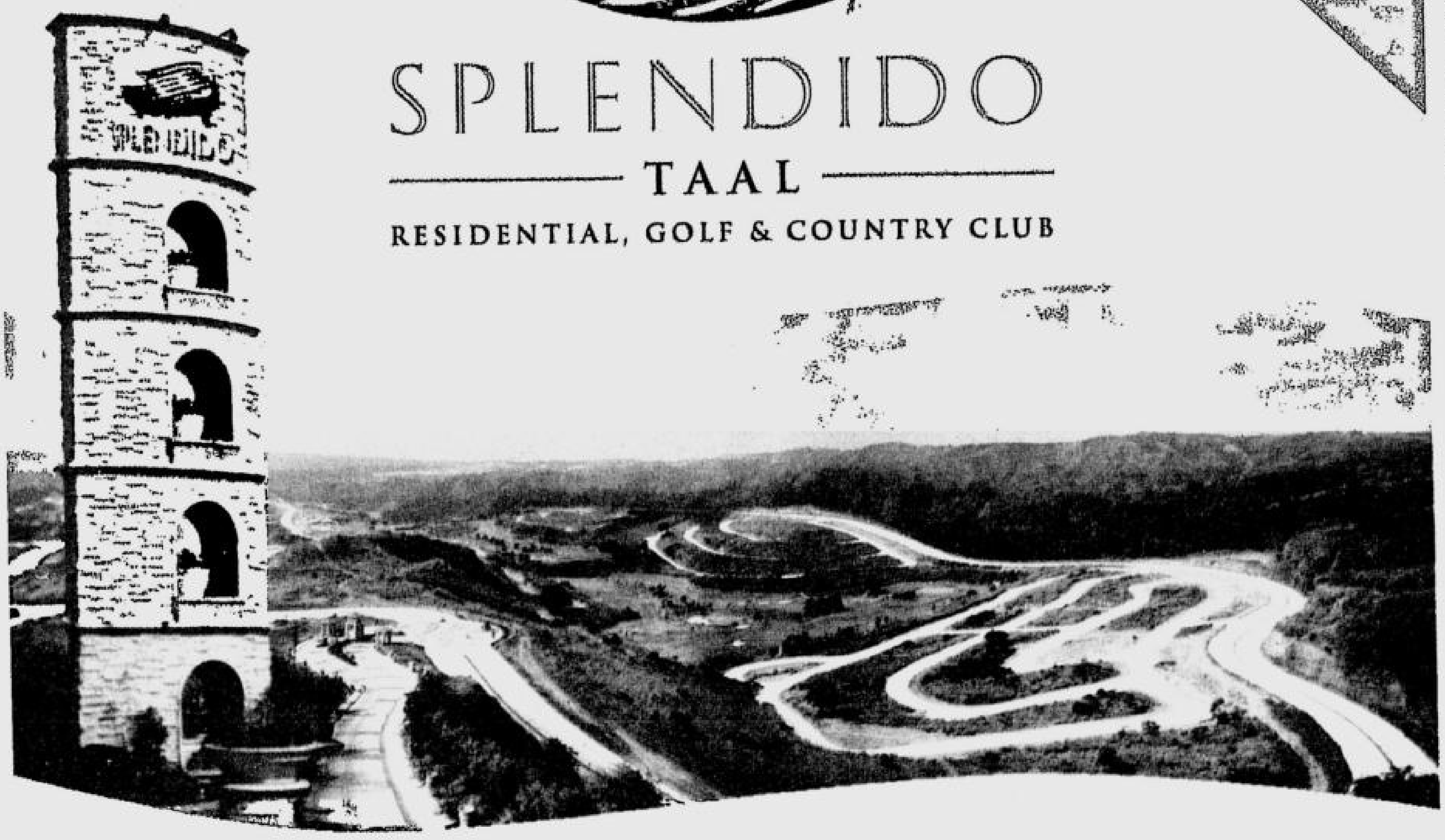

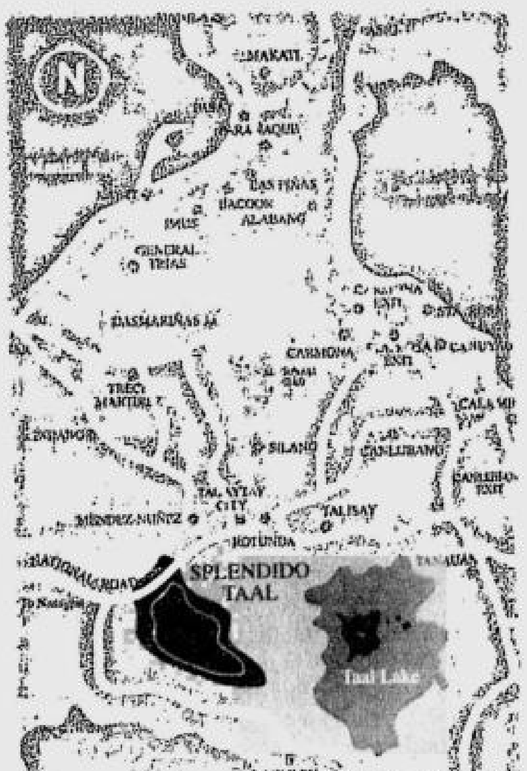

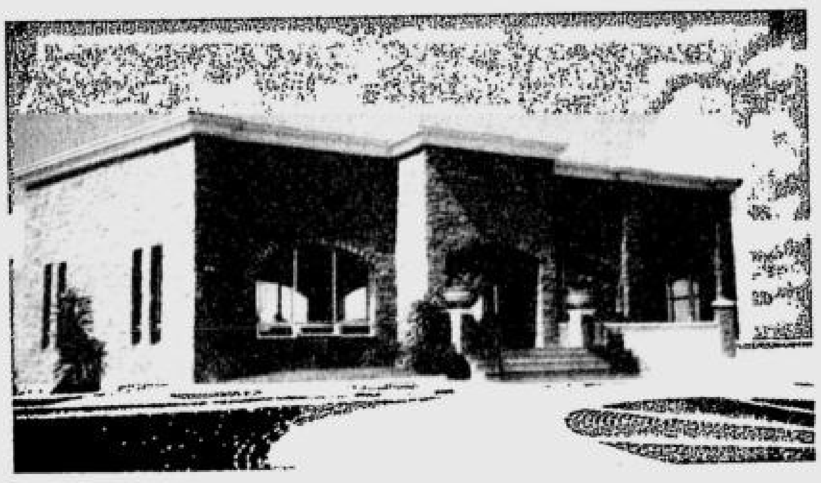

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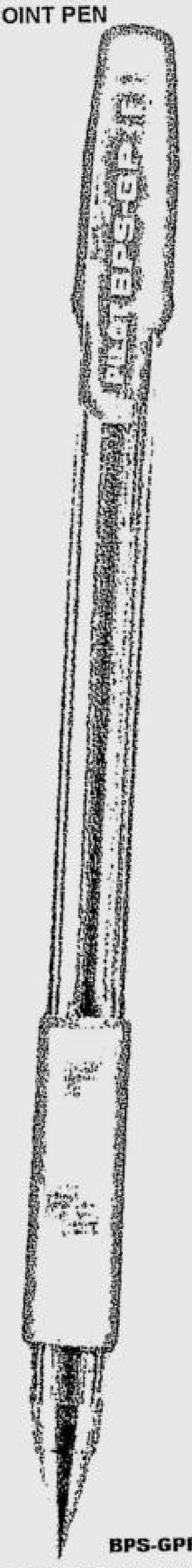

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EDITORIAL

THE CASE of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commander of the 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan, Samar, and, according to rights advocates, party-list representatives and bereaved families, responsible for warrantless arrests and searches as well as for killings and disappearances in Eastern Visayas, demands more attention than is being given. That he has been named to important posts despite a consistently questionable record in human rights invites speculation; that Malacañang has endorsed his promotion to higher rank indicates that the administration does not put much weight on unanswered questions.

There has to be a reason why the man has been termed "Executioner of Samar" or, before then, "Butcher of Mindoro." Surely, these tags do not just spring from thin air. What is clear is that rights advocates and party-list representatives have filed administrative and criminal charges against him for alleged human rights violations committed when he was commander of the 204th Infantry Brigade in Mindoro Oriental. His term there from 2002 to 2004 was marked by the unsolved killing of a number of activists, including Eddie Gumanoy and Eden Marcellana and human rights lawyer Juvy Magsino, who was also a vice mayor of the town of Naujan, and her associate Leima Fortu. (Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño also said that during Palparan's term, Mindoro became "a laboratory for new counterinsurgency tactics where civilians were mostly affected.")

Despite this, he was promoted from brigadier general to his present rank, for which he is awaiting confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

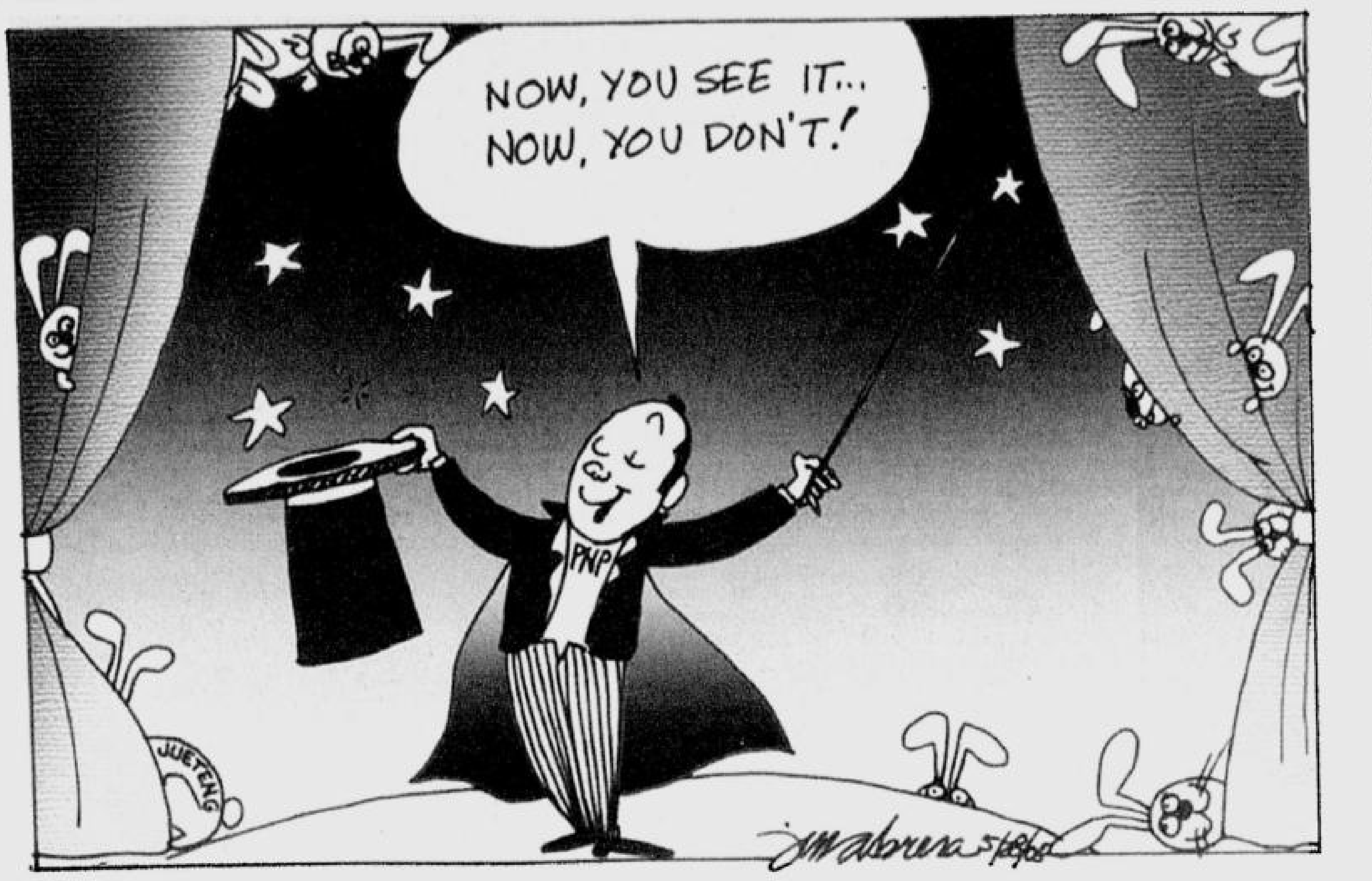
From accounts, Eastern Visayas, the seventh poorest region nationwide, has now become Palparan's "theater." He took on the command of the 8th ID in February, and has since asked for about 300 more troops to complement the 6,000 soldiers and militiamen in the region. Early in May, he told the INQUIRER: "If we have more troops, the enemies would just collapse even without fighting. The more troops we have, the easier for us to solve the insurgency problem..." A little more than a week later, hundreds of frightened residents of upland villages in Calbiga, Samar, were forced to flee their homes because of "special operations" of armed men believed to be members of the military.

Palparan has been frank in stating his mission: to wipe out the communist insurgency in Eastern Visayas within six months to a year. (The attentive observer would be moved to recall the French general, Jacques Massu, who was sent to Algeria during its war of independence from France. He employed harsh measures, including the use of concentration camps for nearly two million Algerians. In 1957, Massu and the French government embarked on a counterinsurgency campaign in Algiers using torture. Within seven months—from March to mid-October—he smashed the Algerian resistance.) But at least two Western Samar lawmakers, Rep. Reynaldo Uy and Rep. Catalino Figueroa, are on record as saying that since Palparan became 8th ID commander, the human rights situation in the province had taken a turn for the worse. They told a hearing at the House on Wednesday of the disappearance of civilians, of armed men raiding civilians' homes in the dead of night. (Uy also said he feared for his life because Palparan had accused him and Figueroa of being supporters of the communist New People's Army.)

On Tuesday at a hearing of the Commission on Appointments, Alex Lagunsad of the rights group Katungod Sinirangan Bisayas was specific: 199 cases of killing, frustrated killing, disappearance, harassment, torture, physical assault, arbitrary arrest and detention of civilians, rights advocates and party-list lawmakers have been recorded since the general's reassignment.

All these—all of Palparan's "unpaid blood debts to farmers and the struggling masses as a whole," according to the farmers group Sagupa-Eastern Visayas—should give the Commission on Appointments pause as it deliberates on Palparan's confirmation. The man may have emphasized the absence of proof of his personal participation in the cases cited by the two Western Samar lawmakers, but Figueroa was correct to say that command responsibility was what should apply.

And it goes without saying that in any case, whether it involves *jueteng* or the murder of a human rights lawyer on some deserted highway—the absence of proof does not automatically mean innocence.


NOW, YOU SEE IT...
NOW, YOU DON'T!
PNP
JUETENG

The quality of our present leaders

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

A LETTER to the editor agrees with my column of May 15 where I deplored the conduct of some Filipinos who did not rise when our national anthem was being played. The writer, who simply signed himself as Butch, felt, however, that I had not said enough. He believed that I should have called on our leaders to do something about this gross disrespect for our "Lupang Hinirang" as a symbol of the highest ideals of the Republic of the Philippines.

For the information of my naïve friend, the omission was intentional. The reason was obvious. I did not call on our leaders because it was needless and useless. The reason was also obvious. Unlike the hopeful Butch, I no longer believe in the civic spirit of our leaders as I used to before. I did not expect that calling on them to do something about this serious moral and civic issue would have received anything but an indifferent reaction.

The present leadership in our government is tarnished and unreliable. Some officials are presumably even criminal. Most of them are ill-prepared for public service, both intellectually and morally. They are there not by virtue of their personal qualifications but by such questionable credentials as wealth, terrorism, family relations, religious cultism, political connections and other dubious recommendations. Intelligence, integrity, and love of country are dispensable requirements, often even mocked as inconvenient vices in the discharge of official duties.

Malacañang itself, which should be extolled as the haven of virtue is derided and distrusted. The First Family is now targeted for alleged election irregularities, involvement in various corruption scandals, and inappropriate exercise of presidential powers such as appointments as a reward for previous political support. The President, with her husband and their son, has been accused as a special protector of jueteng, which is widespread in her own hometown of Lubao, Pampanga. Her Excellency has become for her an undeserved title.

The Cabinet is no less suspicious. Several resignations have added to its loss of public confidence. A senator has accused one member of improper conduct in the opening of some natural resources. Another member has been bypassed by the Commission on Appointments because of questions about his integrity that the President has not seen fit to investigate despite their seriousness. In fact, it is expected that he will be reappointed following his next expected by-pass in another presidential slight of the Commission on Appointments.

Congress has its share of public disapprobation, and a big share it is. The pork barrel continues to taint it despite its lip-service protestations of its honesty and devotion to the public welfare. Save for a few notable exceptions, its membership is flawed and undistinguished if not also felonious. The record of such convicted criminals as Romeo Jalosjos and Mark Jimenez continues to blemish it. It has rejected the efforts of the courts to preventively suspend some of its members under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. It refused to impeach a member of the Commission on Elections despite the strong evidence to prove her guilt.

The Senate today is a far cry from its predecessor in more respectable years. There are at least three of its members who do not belong there because of their disgraceful lack of credentials except for the mindless support of voters who foolishly think (?) that success in the box office is enough qualification for public office. One of them continues to appear in a vulgar television show that has cheapened his high office. There is that member facing charges connected with the Kuratong Baleleng massacre, and another member is moonlighting as a talent-fee advertiser for a commercial product.

The local government officials are no less honorable in general. One searches in vain for the likenesses of such sterling characters as the late Arsenio H. Lacson who was the greatest President the Philippines never had. It is in the local governments that the political dynasty denounced by the Constitution has flourished unabated, with governors and mayors playing musical chairs with their wives, children, brothers and sisters, and fathers and uncles to hold on to political power to the exclusion of non-relatives. Competence is irrelevant; only blood ties are essential. And like other public officials, they owe their loyalty to their exclusive clan and not the community.

And, so my dear Butch, that is the reason I did not complain to our government officials and ask them to do something about the conduct of those mindless so-called Filipinos who did not stand, as citizens of our Republic should, to render it honor as the National Anthem was being played. What I did was recall that as children during our time, we were taught by our parents and teachers to rise in reverence and loyalty as we sang Ang Pambansang Awit while the Philippine flag was being raised.

It was to the home and the schools I was complaining, for it is there that the problem can be solved.

Will the knight kill the damsel?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

ON THE FACE of it, the recent decision of the Securities and Exchange Commission to revoke the certificate of incorporation of Lifetime Plans Inc. (LPI)—the corporation spun off last year from Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI), a move which put the Yuchengco family in the eye of a raging controversy—may look like a victory of the "good guys" (the traditional/open ended plan holders) over the "bad guys" (the Yuchengcos). Or using another metaphor, a case of a knight in shining armor (the SEC) saving, in the nick of time, the damsel in distress (the plan holders) from the dragon (the Yuchengcos). But a closer examination of the consequences of the order reveals that the victory, if any, will be pyrrhic.

First, any damage to the Yuchengcos will more likely be to their pride (Al Yuchengco sets great store by his name) rather than to their pocket. Why? Because while the SEC decision serves as a death knell to both PPI and LPI, any financial exposure of the Yuchengcos, even including the ambassador's voluntary P250-million capital contribution, may have been more than covered by past dividends from PPI. Any spillover of the financial problems of the PPI/LPI to the rest of the Yuchengco companies will probably be temporary.

Second, the 34,000 remaining holders of traditional plans (where they are guaranteed tuition and other school fees regardless of cost at the time of availment) are not only not going to get any relief as a result of the SEC move, but any chances of the new PPI management turning the company around have just been shot down.

Worse, the SEC decision drags the 400,000 plan holders of LPI (the spinoff was designed to protect them)—those who have fixed-value education, memorial or pension plans—into a quagmire from which the possibility of escape may be almost nil.

How so? Let us count the ways:

The revocation of LPI's corporate personality means that its assets and liabilities are now folded back into PPI. But PPI is under a court "stay order" which gives it relief from paying its liabilities. Which in turn means that what is due to the 400,000 plan holders of LPI also cannot be paid, leaving them in limbo. The effect? You now have another 400,000 plan holders who, because of the SEC order, cannot get any availment. Those who are still paying for their plans will have no incentive to continue their payments. What is more, nobody will want to buy any more plans, which in turn puts in jeopardy the livelihood of around 20,000 agents.

The irony of it is that even if PPI were not under a court stay order, the SEC has made sure (albeit unwittingly) that what is due to the LPI plan holders will not be paid. Why? Because at the same time that it issued its decision to revoke LPI's incorporation, it also sent a directive to Rizal Commerical Banking Corp., the Yuchengco bank which manages the trust funds, to "preserve the trust fund of Lifetime Plans Inc., until further orders of the Commission." Sounds like a good order, until you realize that the reason a trust fund is constituted is precisely to assure payments to plan holders, so that "preserving" the trust fund means nonpayment of benefits!

Is there a possibility, however remote, that by putting back together the fixed-value plans with the open-ended plans (PPI), and rescinding the court order, as well as the SEC's order to RCBC—in other words, moving back to the pre-controversy situation—there will be excess profits from the fixed-value operations to pay the open-ended plan holders?

To answer that question, we first have to get a handle on the amount required to ensure that the remaining 34,464 open-ended plan holders (some 40,340 students have already been sent to school; PPI discontinued the plan in 1992, when tuition fees were deregulated) can finish their schooling. Some very rough calculations (no official estimate is available): Last year, PPI paid out P800 million to finance the tuition and other school fees of the 16,000 who were already using their plan. Assuming that those 16,000 will need another three years of schooling; assuming that 18,500 other plan holders will come in this year, that their financial needs are identical to that of the previous 16,000 and that they will be taking four-year courses; and assuming that there will be no increases in tuition fees over that period, then total required outlay will be about P5.6 billion. However, the funds in reserve are valued at P3.2 billion, leaving a gap of P2.4 billion.

Can the company's prospective net income cover that amount? The SEC moves certainly reduce market enthusiasm. Even setting that aside, a look at the audited corporate income of PPI over the period 1992-2004 gives the answer: No way. The largest recorded corporate income for any year was P139 million, with losses of up to P1.4 billion being recorded in the last five years. Including the combined trust fund incomes (which are not fungible), the net income of the corporation averaged something like P100 million a year.

The bottom line: as a result of the SEC order, the "good guys" may have "won," but will get killed in the process, while the "bad guys" (and there is at least some doubt as to their villainy) have been wounded, but are not likely to die. The knight in shining armor shows a dangerous ineptitude, slaying the damsel in distress while trying to save her. Actually, he is turning out to be the more likely villain of the piece.

Too fast too soon

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN CLOSING my notebook on South Africa, it must be noted that with the victory of Nelson Mandela in the first free and democratic elections of 1994, analysts have opined that its future hinges on the understanding and cooperation between the numerically dominant blacks and the 10 percent white minority, the descendants of the European settlers in the past three centuries. As I had earlier pointed out, the problem is that the white minority controls 90 percent of the wealth while the blacks who make up 90 percent of the population, are, with some exceptions, poor and lacking in education and training. The pilot case for racial integration and cooperation in the African continent would have to be South Africa, and that it's safe to say that where that country goes, Africa will be.

There's no denying that the European frontiersmen have made South Africa the progressive country it is today, but they achieved this through the labor of the native Africans. Unfortunately, like many colonizers, the European settlers and their descendants chose to shut out the black Africans from the political, economic and social mainstream, by institutionalizing the apartheid policy that controlled even their personal lives. Thus, while South Africa boasts of First-World infrastructures, its human resources are woefully Third-World.

* * *

With the surge of African nationalism following the victory of Nelson Mandela and now his successor, President Thabo Mbeki, the blacks are restive and are now demanding a better life—fast. There's a high level of unemployment among them, which has aggravated criminality especially in Johannesburg. To alleviate it, the Mbeki government has enacted a series of fiats to expand economic and social opportunities for the blacks, among them the policies of Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) and "Affirmative Action" which says that when a black and a white person vies for a job, the black takes priority. But given their poor education and training, most blacks are not ready to replace the white workers. It would take at least one or two generations before the blacks catch up.

Many white people fear that BEE would be disastrous to the thriving economy. In fact, many young, qualified and competent whites are leaving to work abroad, as they don't see any hope of going up the corporate ladder in their own country. This brain drain in a country that has developed its human resources poorly will hurt its competitiveness in the world.

There's one other problem that is being talked about in whispers: a few very well-connected black entrepreneurs are said to be cornering most business opportunities and have become the new multi-millionaires.

* * *

The current attitude of investors is one of wait-and-see. How will it manage the necessary integration in various aspects of its national life? The whites were happy with the way Mandela managed the transition, since he was a moderate who preached a let's-move-on-and-integrate policy. But Mbeki is being watched, and some observers are not comfortable with his close friendship with neighboring Zimbabwe's strongman Robert Mugabe, whose throw-out-the-whites policy has proven to be disastrous for its economy. The whites and foreign investors are worried about South Africa's future should moderates like Mandela pass away. For now what is holding the nation together are the preparations for the World Cup which it will host in 2010. South Africans are simply crazy about soccer.

A lot could also depend on how far the whites are willing to assume the "white man's burden" and pull up their black countrymen through education and social services. Theoretically white facilities such as their schools are now open to blacks, but that's largely only on paper for the blacks cannot afford them. Unfortunately, there's little indication that the whites wish to venture beyond their exclusive country clubs to reach out meaningfully to the blacks.

* * *

Neighboring Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia), should serve as a stark example of how bad things could be if both whites and blacks don't come to their senses. Rhodesia used to be an exporter of precision instruments, farm machinery and products, and military equipment. It achieved this at a time when its sole outlet to the outside world was a solitary bridge through South Africa. Now reports say there's a shortage of almost anything there, including food, even though it has access to the world through various ports of its own.

When we were in South Africa, we met a white Zimbabwean farmer who used to operate about 20,000 hectares of farm and cattle lands. Today he only has 400 hectares left, as blacks just came one day and occupied the rest of his property. He could lose the last 400 hectares any time, since the authorities tolerate such land-grabbing. White South Africans are keenly watching developments next door.

* * *

If South Africa—and the whole continent, for that matter—is to survive, positive cooperation must be struck among its "rainbow" citizenry. Majority of the whites trace their roots to as far back as four or five generations and feel they were instrumental in making the country what it is today. But the blacks who labored for the white man feel they have every right to a better life than what was given to them. The country has all the potentials to be the major economic player in that part of the globe, but this cannot be realized on the strength of exclusive chauvinism or blind nationalism. Its leaders, regardless of color, will have to come together and think of their country's good if they want it to occupy its rightful place in the world. Theirs is a country that is so amply blessed with its natural and human resources, strategic geographic location and very stable climate. If only they could get their act together.

Not an 'unusual' reaction

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN she testified for the prosecution in the rape case against Davao businessman Jose Custodio, psychiatrist Dr. June Pagaduan-Lopez felt disadvantaged when she could cite only foreign studies to explain what seemed to be Karen Vertido's "unusual" reaction to the alleged attack.

According to her own testimony, Karen was so overcome with shock and fear that she could barely take in what was happening to her. Indeed, she said that she had no memory of the actual rape, that she passed out and when she came to, Custodio already had his way with her. Such a reaction, said Pagaduan-Lopez, was symptomatic of "post-traumatic stress disorder," when an event is so traumatic or damaging the mind "dissociates," removing it from memory even as it is going on. Post-traumatic stress disorder, she pointed out, is not that rare and that, in fact, studies done with rape survivors have shown that it is the most common reaction among the victims.

Pagaduan-Lopez's testimony, as well as that of another psychiatrist, Dr. Pureza Onate, was by and large dismissed by Judge Virginia Europa. Even as she conceded that a rape victim need not be shown to have resisted the rapist to prove the truth of her allegation, Europa still focused on Karen's failure to fight off Custodio or take advantage of several "opportunities" to escape.

But if she had only bothered to better understand Pagaduan-Lopez's testimony, called up the doctor for more information, or even conducted her own research, the judge might have better appreciated the scientific basis of Karen's "unusual" reaction. She might have found out that, precisely because of the paucity of local data that frustrated her, the psychiatrist decided to conduct a local study among Filipina rape survivors. Europa might then have discovered that Karen's "unusual" reaction was not all that unusual and was, in fact, consistent with the behavior of most survivors of rape.

* * *

FROM JANUARY 1999 to December 2000, a total of 114 rape survivors underwent treatment and counseling at the UP-PGH Women's Desk. Almost three-fourths of the women were from 18 to 24 years old, single, equipped with at least a high school education, and employed. In other words, except for being slightly older than the average, Karen would have fit right in with most of the women involved in the study.

Among the study's conclusions was that there was a higher incidence of rape by persons known to the victims as opposed to "stranger" rape. This, by the way, is supported by similar studies conducted in many other countries, as well as by figures reported by the Philippine National Police.

What's even more interesting is that it is the sense of having been betrayed by someone she knows that "alters" the behavior of the victim during and after the attack. And the more trusted the attacker, said Pagaduan-Lopez, the greater the degree of shock and disbelief on the part of the victim.

"Many of the women said they couldn't believe it was happening to them," she said. "Some even tended to doubt their perception of events, telling themselves that maybe they were reading too much into the behavior of the attacker."

* * *

PERHAPS this explains why, according to the study, "physical resistance is not the most common reaction of the victim. Behavior such as pleading and bargaining with the perpetrator is much more common."

In most of the reported rapes, the perpetrator did not use a gun, knife or any other deadly weapon, and yet the women did not actively physically resist the attack.

"There is a very wide range of coping behavior for the survivor of rape," says Pagaduan-Lopez, though a huge study with 8,000 participants found that survivors of "stranger" rape presented far more physical injuries, that is, they were more apt to resist and struggle, than the majority who were raped by men known to them. Few women, after all, are mentally prepared with coping mechanisms when faced with rape by a husband, boyfriend, suitor, date, friend, workmate, boss or acquaintance.

In her decision, Europa made much of Custodio's allegations that there was more to his "relationship" with Karen than just business, he being a former president of the Davao Chamber of Commerce of which Karen was executive director. The judge used this to give credence to the possibility that the two shared an "intimate" relationship, although, going by the UP-PGH study, a "more than nodding acquaintance" might explain Karen's reaction, or lack of it, as Europa saw it.

* * *

PAGADUAN-LOPEZ poses what she calls "a basic question" in the light of the judge's decision which reveals her faulty appreciation of, or even outright refusal to acknowledge, the experts' testimony.

"To what degree is a legal professional ethically bound to do his or her own research on human behavior in deciding what is 'normal' and 'not normal' reaction to a heinous crime such as sexual assault?" Pagaduan-Lopez wants to know. And given the evidence of her own words and reasoning, did Europa base her decision on "objective research or personal conjecture?"

For the dismaying truth of the matter is that too many judges in this country base their decisions on cases involving sexual matters—such as rape, sexual harassment or molestation—not on objective evidence or expert testimony or on what science has established, but on what their own personal biases tell them about how a man or a woman "should" react, or "should" behave.

Gender bias is still very much alive and kicking in our courts, and as Europa has shown, among the worst perpetrators of such a bias are judges who happen to be women.

The decline of the English language

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

TURNS out there's more to language than speaking it fluently. A reader who prefers to remain anonymous e-mailed me an article from the Net regarding the decline of Spanish in the Philippines, but it turned out to be about English.

However, there was a lot of other entertaining information. Bet you didn't know, for example, that aside from "Taglish" (that one's easy), there's "Coño English" (the article spells it "Konyo," which in my dictionary doesn't mean anything; the word is *coño* and it means cunt) and "Englog." Taglish is more Tagalog mixed with English words and Englog is more English than Tagalog words. I bet you didn't know either that the reason Coño English came to be was that the Tisoys were feeling left out and out of place and wanted to belong. That's also the reason you have all the Tisoy's going "*Pare*" this and "*Pare*" that and driving me up the wall. I guess children do want to fit in and feel miserable if they don't, so when these Tisoys "often stood out among the crowd due to their European features and lighter complexion, and sometimes faced potential alienation from the mainstream Tagalog-speaking majority in Manila," they figured they'd bastardize the English language and Tagalog for that matter, too.

(Which brings me to another topic, which is the need for people to relate and to belong. I get the part about the children but you'd think that once people grew up, they'd form a deep-seated distrust of the Establishment. Unfortunately, this doesn't seem to happen. As a matter of fact, all over the world people claw their way up the corporate ladder just to belong. Sure seems like a waste of time.)

There is apparently a variant to Coño English, known as "Colegiala English," which is even worse if such a thing were possible. At one time, I thought it was attributed to my old alma mater, but thank heaven it isn't the only guilty party; it also refers to all the *colegios* (Maryknoll, St. Scho, Assumption, St. Paul, Woodrose, Poveda and so on). Anyway these schools were reportedly "very expensive"—not necessarily academically good so you could expect your child to get a decent education, but just expensive. So all these parents squirreling away a monthly sum with CAP or Pacific Plans or one of those just to make sure their children got an education were in for a rude surprise. Supposedly the bulk of these students were *mestizos* or *creoles*, a statement that is not borne out by my yearbook anyway where the group of Tisays is already a minority.

But let me give you some examples which could make you cringe: "Let's make *tusok* the fishballs." "Make *cuento* to me what happened." "He's so *galing*." and "I'm so *init na*; make *paypay* me *naman*."

To round up your education, the article explains that "Coño" refers to a certain affluent sector of Philippine society and dates back to the 1800s, when it referred to Peninsulares living in the country. These Spaniards had a tendency to use the cuss word excessively, as in every other word, to the great distress of those who had to listen to them since it was difficult to make out their train of thought. It's possible they didn't have any. For decades these expatriate Spaniards remained "at the top of the food chain…and generally held the highest prestige," and the word began to refer to others who were not necessarily *creole* or *tisoy* but could have been of European or American descent and probably didn't even speak Spanish. Finally, it got so bad that the label attached itself "to include most members of the Philippine upper classes, regardless of their racial background." It explains why today even Chinese *mestizos* or native Filipinos, so long as they're rich, are referred to as "*coños*." The word does not refer to the ethnic taipan class (I think the federation would have a fit and a half) since they don't have a European orientation.

Then there's the non-*creole* Filipino professional classes (like doctors, engineers, teachers etc.) i.e., the so-called educated middle class, who do not use Coño English and in fact abhor and avoid it. This English-influenced group not only endeavors to speak straight English but may even add an American accent. (By the time the call centers are through with us, we should all sound like we came from Iowa.) This class is described as "highly diluted" or "highly miscegenated," although the writer doesn't state who's doing the branding (well, for one, someone with some command of English). It includes Chinese *mestizos* who may or may not have a Western ancestor but can't be mistaken for foreigners. This group isn't interested in assimilating. They know themselves to be "unmistakably considered Filipino" by other Filipinos due to their physical appearance. (Oddly enough a niece of mine and another good friend are routinely addressed in Chinese whenever they travel to Taiwan, Hong Kong or Singapore. The Chinese apparently can't tell the difference but the Pinoys can.) They don't feel a need to prove their Filipino identity "by overusing Filipino words while speaking English." There's also the fact that they may be too busy trying to get a visa to go abroad where it makes sense to be able to speak the language properly.

Ugly secret

YOUNG BLOOD

Doni

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

HOW do you tell your mother to stop talking about how lucky she is to have such a perfect husband? How do you disabuse your sisters of the notion that they should find somebody like Papa because all men are bastards, your Papa included? What would you do if you discovered that the father whom you have loved and adored had impregnated his own grandniece, the same girl who lived with your family?

I learned about this about the same time a tsunami hit parts of Asia late last year. Given the choice, I would rather have been in Indonesia or Thailand being swept out to sea by the tsunami than home safe but very much tormented by what I knew.

Jenny, the grandniece, is the daughter of my Papa's nephew. She used to stay in our house, together with two other relatives, doing household chores without pay. In exchange for their services, my parents sent them to school.

Jenny was with us for eight years, and is now about to finish college. During all those years, I was in Manila earning my undergraduate degree and now studying for my law degree, so our interaction was limited to small talks when I called home and she answered the phone, or when I went on short vacations.

Everyone has only the kindest words for her: she is a very diligent student, she is dependable and trustworthy and honest.

Since we were not close, I was surprised when Jenny called me up the day after Christmas and requested me to go to their house. Their house is in Papa's hometown, a sleepy place about five hours' drive from the city where we live.

When I arrived, Jenny told me point-blank that she was pregnant. I was about to say, "Congrats, that means you are not sterile," but seeing her solemn face, I bit my tongue. I asked who the father was, and she said, "Kuya, your Papa."

I was stunned. I was shaking for a while and started to cry. And I saw Jenny, her Nanay and Tatay crying, too.

When I regained my composure, I asked her who else knew about her condition. She said, "Only my parents, and now you."

Then she added, "Kuya, I have no plans of creating a big scandal. All I want is to get rid of the baby, finish my studies and live somewhere else until I graduate."

We talked about how she could carry out those plans. Then I asked why she chose to tell her story to me and not to another member of the family. She said the others wouldn't have believed her.

And why would I would buy her story? "Because you are the only son," she said, "and things such as this, sons can understand and handle better than daughters. And also because one time, I think, you saw us." She then proceeded to recall one incident when I saw her and Papa in a rather compromising position.

Back then, I could feel the sexual tension in the air. I am no sex expert, but I knew enough about it to be able to feel such tension when there is one. But at that time, I brushed the thought aside. Not my father, I told myself. He is much too decent, too honorable and too fatherly to fall prey to temptations of the flesh. He had an immaculate reputation as a family man. He didn't even go to girlie joints. Sure, he had his flaws, like a quick temper and sometimes holding some archaic views on certain issues. But that was about it.

As a father, he was ideal. He taught all of his children how to read and write before our first teachers did. He checked on our assignments. He brought us to school and fetched us from there. He attended PTA meetings. I cannot remember any important milestone in our lives being marked without him being present.

When I was in fourth grade, we had our Boy Scouts camping. Every night he would go to the camp site and check on me. Because parents were not allowed inside the tent, he would park his car nearby and sleep there. He told the scout master that he wanted to keep a close eye on his only son.

It was Papa's curse that all his three daughters pursued medical and related courses. He would wake up in the middle of the night to bring one of his daughters to the hospital, only to wake up again at 3 a.m. to fetch another daughter whose duty had already ended.

I am pretty sure my three sisters have a thousand and one stories that would demonstrate how good our father is. In fact, when one of them was asked by a suitor what her father was like, she told him her friends in high school wanted their fathers to be like Papa. And she added only half in jest, "If you are half as good as my father, I am going to marry you."

Now I wonder if she could say the same things if she learned about this.

As I write this, Jenny has already gone through an abortion. She has gone back to our city (but not our house) to continue her studies. Because her parents cannot afford to finance her schooling, I send her a big chunk of my allowance for her board and lodging. I am in a tough financial fix. Imagine sending somebody to college on a student's allowance!

But it is even worse emotionally. I feel as if I am doing a difficult balancing act for all parties concerned. Almost every day, Jenny sends me e-mails, and not all of them are pleasant ones. While I understand where she is coming from, I feel hurt and get affected by the things she says against my father. But I just bear them all, not because they are true but because I am afraid of what she might do. She can go to our house, blurt out her story and that would be the end of our harmonious family life.

Sometimes I feel overwhelmed by the unfairness of the whole situation. I am carrying the brunt of a problem I neither created nor caused. Is this perhaps God's way of teaching me some of life's "small" lessons? This self-centered and spoiled son, who never showed concern about his family before, must now look after everyone's best interest. I never realized until now how deeply I cared for the feelings of my sisters and my mother until this crisis erupted. I did know that I could go the extra mile and sacrifice just to shield them from unnecessary pain.

In the last few months, I have turned into a creature who prays a lot. I ask God to keep a tight watch over my family and to keep every member safe in the palm of His hands.

How do you tell your mother about your father's infidelity? How do you tell your sisters that their father is far from perfect?

I really have no idea. Maybe, you don't.

Doni, 23, is a senior in one of the country's most prestigious law schools.

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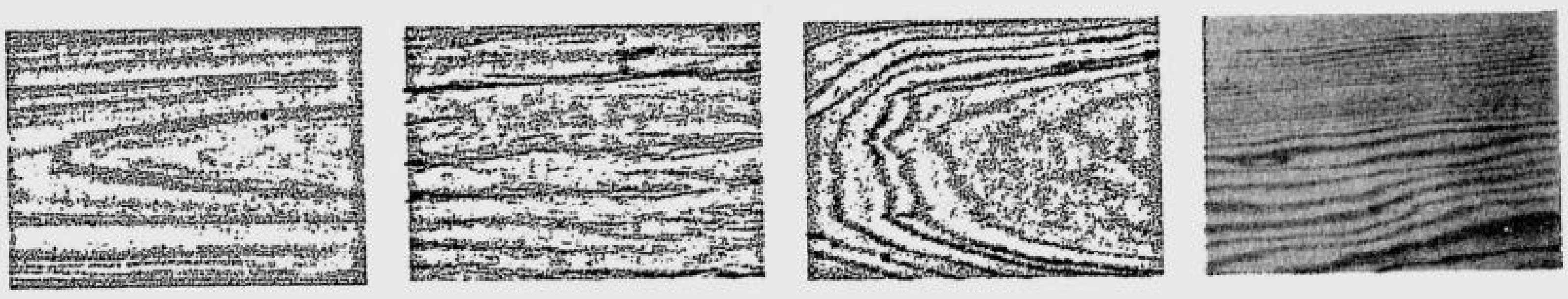

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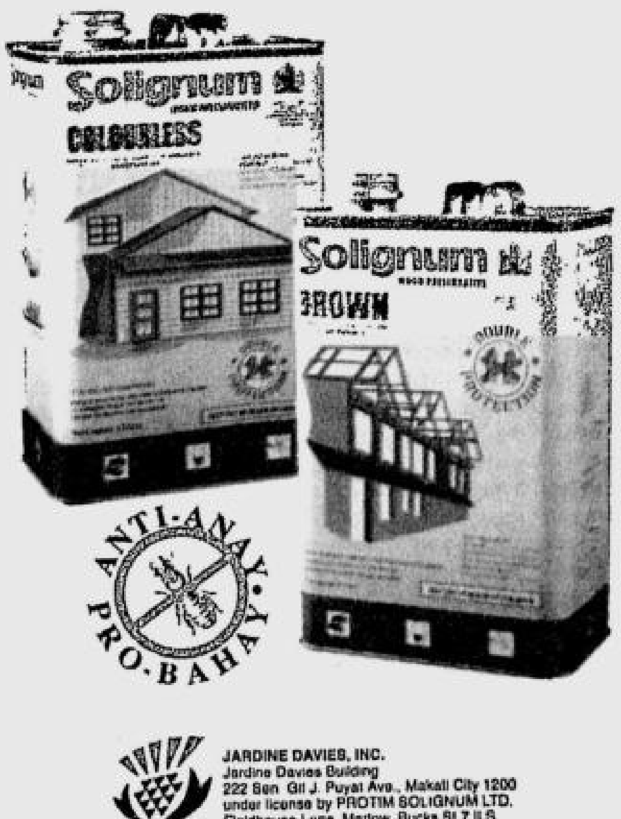

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

An approach to peace

WITH a sense of urgency, we ask the President and members of Congress to take immediate positive action on the following multidimensional approach to peace in our country.

1. Pass a joint resolution committing the Philippines to promote the culture of life and "civilization of love" rather than the culture of death, violence and hatred; and to declare—as contrary to public policy, public morals, public order, good customs, public interest and welfare, and the common good—the glorification of guns, violence, sex and pornography in print, TV and radio, movies, billboards, streamers, posters, stickers and other media.

2. Increase the penalty for illegal possession of firearms and violation of any firearms law, from *reclusion temporal* (12 years to 20 years) without pardon or parole to *reclusion perpetua* (life sentence, but offender may be pardoned after 30 years in prison, unless by reason of his conduct or other serious causes he is deemed unworthy of pardon). Public officials found guilty of illegal possession of firearms should be barred from holding any public office. Similarly, anyone found guilty of planting evidence shall suffer the same penalty.

3. Make it criminal for anyone, except police officers, soldiers, or licensed private security guards in uniform and on duty, to carry firearms in public places. The legislation should in no way impair the privilege of a responsible sportsman or gun owner to keep a licensed gun at home or at a gun club.

4. Stop the issuance of "permits to carry" firearms outside the residence. Nobody should be exempted from this law. A "license to possess" firearms may be issued for safekeeping at home and only for protection purposes on condition (in addition to the existing ones) that the applicant has a safety deposit box at home duly approved by the authorities.

5. Legalize and put under tight government control the local production of firearms for use by the police and the military, or by civilians for sports and home protection.

6. Ban the importation of firearms. Only high-powered guns may be imported but only if necessary for the use of the police and military.

8. Ban gun exhibits in public malls and other public places.

9. Relocate gun stores inside military and police headquarters.

10. Ban the manufacture, importation and sale of toy guns or gun replicas.

11. Prohibit heavy tinting of windshields and glass windows of motor vehicles. Nothing should obscure the view of the interior of motor vehicles from the outside.

12. Mandate the periodic public inventory of all confiscated guns, their destruction or their conversion into other useful implements..

The period of debate for gun control is over. The time to act is long overdue. For those who believe in gun control no explanation is necessary, for those who do not believe, no explanation is possible.

—NANDY PACHECO,
president, Alliance for the Common Good
(Ang Kaptiran) and Gunless Society,
Greenmeadows, Quezon City

New facility to put an end to garbage disposal threat

A GROUP led by a certain Dr. Ramos of Barangay Macatbong, Cabanatuan City is reportedly opposed to the setting-up of a material-recovery facility (MRF) that will classify household and commercial or industrial wastes into those that are non-compostable and those that are biodegradable, and then recycle the biodegradable into organic compost fertilizer and convert the residual wastes into concrete brick products and filling materials. The group has threatened to file a "class suit" against the city government. It claims that they were not consulted about the project.

The MRF is expected to put an end to the garbage disposal menace that has worsened with the closure this year of the city's open-pit dumpsite in Barangay Valle Cruz. It is also designed to protect the environment and generate additional revenues and employment opportunities.

The city government can use the materials from the MRF in rehabilitating or developing the closed Valle Cruz dumpsite into an eco-park.

To be manned by scavengers who were displaced from the closed Valle Cruz dumpsite, the MRF can produce 24 metric tons of organic compost fertilizer daily from biodegradable waste materials.

Cabanatuan City generates an average of 249 cubic meters of garbage daily.

The city government expects to recover the expenses for tipping fee through the collection of minimal garbage fees that it plans to charge every household and commercial or industrial establishment.

Also, the Cabanatuan City government will be given a 10.5-percent share from the sale of fertilizer and 5 percent from the sale of concrete brick products.

Dr. Ramos' group must shed its irrational and obstructive move. It should instead make itself a partner of the administration in pursuing its program for Cabanatuan City's sustained socio-economic growth and development.

—GERTRUDES M. DULLE,
former barangay chairman,
M.S. Garcia, Cabanatuan City

INQUIRER Visayas

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Ati people retell 'Barter of Panay'

By Jo Martinez-Clemente
Hamtic, Antique

AMONG the highlights of the Binirayan Festival is the fluvial parade and the reenactment of the arrival of the 10 datus. FILE PHOTO

ANTIQUE'S Binirayan Festival kicked off in late April with a strong statement that challenged anew a historical anecdote known to most Filipinos as the "Barter of Panay."

Saying it was not possible for the Ati people to have traded the Panay islands with a golden *salakot* (wide-brimmed native hat) and a golden necklace, organizers of this year's Binirayan went through with the reenactment of the coming of the 10 Bornean datus in Malandog, Hamtic on April 28, without the usual "barter" they have been doing since 1974.

Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez also posed a challenge to historians to look anew into this historical incident as she offered her province as venue for any anthropological or cultural conference that would bring the matter before the public agenda.

A fresh dimension for the festival was the participation of the Ati community in the program in contrast to make-believe Ati in the past.

Dubbed one of the biggest real estate transactions in history by some writers, the "Purchase or Barter" of Panay could not have been possible because the Ati people were hunters and gatherers then and unlikely to have a proprietary concept of land, according to some anthropologists.

Still, history traces the development of the barangay, as the beginnings of an organized society, through the settlements set up by the Bornean pioneers. Thus, Panay had also been referred to as the cradle of Philippine civilization.

One of the Ati leaders, Virgilio Ocario, agreed to this observation.

Ati version

Ocario is the president of the Pambansang Lupon ng Nakatatanda sa Tribu (PLANT), an association of tribal leaders in the country. He is now retracing history so that he and his people will be able to share their own version of what happened in Panay.

At the moment, Ocario is convinced that his forebears did not sell nor barter Panay even as one historian, Prof. Josue Sancuya, said in his 1917 book "Historia Prehispana de Panay" that the value of transaction was estimated at P57,790 in modern Philippine money.

Ocario said the story that ran among them Ati was different from historian Gregorio F. Zaide's account in his book "Philippine Political and Cultural History."

In his book, Zaide said Marikudo negotiated the sale of the lowlands with the Bornean datus "with the approval of his people" at a price consisting of a gold *saduk* (wide-brimmed hat) for Marikudo and a long gold necklace for Queen Maniwangtiwang.

He cited the 1907 "Maragtas" Manuscripts of Pedro Monteclaro and Sangcuya's book as references.

Ocario said "it is not within Ati culture to partake of something not given to him directly; they will not ask for their share, they will just go away."

He narrated that according to his forefathers, the leader of the Ati then was "Amang Pulpulan," the father of Marikudo. Then, too, one could not be a leader of the Ati if he were not married.

He said that when the Bornean datus came, it just happened that it was Marikudo's wedding and Amang Pulpulan told his son to just handle the visitors and talk to them.

"We do not know how Marikudo could have communicated with the datus. But when the visitors handed gifts to Marikudo, the Ati left and that's when Marikudo said *'dina kayni pag ukwe karnad kayni ke burohaten'* … which means, do not go yet, we are still talking. The Ati left not because they have given Panay to the visitors but they got angry with Marikudo. That was also the last time we would hear of Marikudo."

Oral history

Ocario said he was not a direct descendant of Marikudo, but his forefathers attended Marikudo's wedding and the story had been told to them through generations.

"In fact, we were told that seven pairs got married that day, Marikudo and Maniwangtiwang and six others. They were the ladies not chosen by Marikudo and so the other men got them for their wives. Marikudo needs to marry so he can take over his father as leader, so a messenger was asked to look for potential brides. She came back with seven and Marikudo chose from them."

Ocario said that according to stories that had been passed on to them, it was Amang Batan who attended Marikudo's wedding and witnessed the arrival of the datus.

"He told the story to his sister Sora. Sora had a son called Gemo and this was from where my great grandmother Apuy Muray traced her roots. I am still tracing our family tree though," he said.

The Binirayan Festival was conceptualized in 1973 by the late Gov. Evelio Javier, historian Resurreccion Maza, writer Lorna Montilla and Gov. Sally Perez. It was anchored on the Maragtas legends, about how the Bornean datus led by Datu Puti fled from the tyranny of Sultan Makatunaw and landed in Panay.

Perez said the golden hat and the necklace, if it happened at all, should be seen as a symbol of friendship between the foreigners and the Ati people, not as a price in exchange of the islands.

Bed and Breakfast in San Jose, Antique

By Hazel P. Villa
San Jose, Antique

IN THE RUSTIC and handsome province of Antique where "the mountains meet the sea," lodging houses are few and far between.

Despite the siren call of rivers for whitewater rafting, swimming at secluded beaches and just plain sightseeing of majestic mountains and other natural wonders, there's still the need for a stopover before haggling for transportation begins the following day for that once-in-a-lifetime view of the rare rafflesia flower at Sibalom or a dip at Siraan Hot Springs in Anini-y.

Tourists and visitors need not worry anymore if they want to stay overnight in San Jose, the capital town of Antique, since a family has decided to open their compound for visitors on stopovers or on business.

The bed-and-breakfast concept came to Dr. Melvin de la Serna and his wife Fe, a pharmacist, two years ago when their medical representative friends opted to spend the night at the couple's house in Barangay 3 on Santiago Street, known among the natives as Punta Comon, instead of staying in lodging houses.

The visitors must have found the De la Serna's home and their wide and lush garden such a comfort. Soon, word got around that this was the place to stay when in Antique since the couple was sincere with their hospitality.

"We opened our compound to friends and medical representatives because not all the lodging houses here can accommodate them," said Melvin.

Fe, a former medical representative from Cabanatuan City, manages the family pharmacy here.

To maintain their own privacy and keep visitors comfortable, the De la Sernas transformed a storeroom at the end of the garden into a cottage that can house five people, complete with the amenities found in a pension house—albeit with more expensive toiletries, soft, gently scented linens and updated magazines.

The family compound of 2,500 square meters still has room.

With more visitors coming, another cottage for three was built while Fe added more novelty items and bric-a-bracs to the garden filled with trees like tamarinds, Indian mangoes and jackfruit, 30 lovebirds and a four-month-old monkey.

Several hammocks, a mini-bar, birdhouses, and a nipa rest house dot the garden that transforms at night when the sounds of three small waterfalls mix with classical music. One is moved to reverie amid foliage that glows ethereally from the lighting that Fe has installed, hidden among the plants.

Among other things that amuse the couple is how the simple act of hospitality has given birth to affairs like parties of the local Rotary Club, medical associations and even federation meetings for the disabled since Melvin himself had polio as a child. The De la Serna compound also had its first garden wedding this May.

And now for the breakfast. At P50 per head, Manang Kit, the all-around househelp, will serve you a hearty breakfast of rice, eggs, two other dishes, juice or coffee, and native desert you can hardly finish.

You eat all of that beside a curtain of Millionaire's Vine and after burping, you may take a walk in the backyard until you see a seascape and decide to burn all the calories with a swim in the beach which is part of a marine sanctuary several meters from your cottage.

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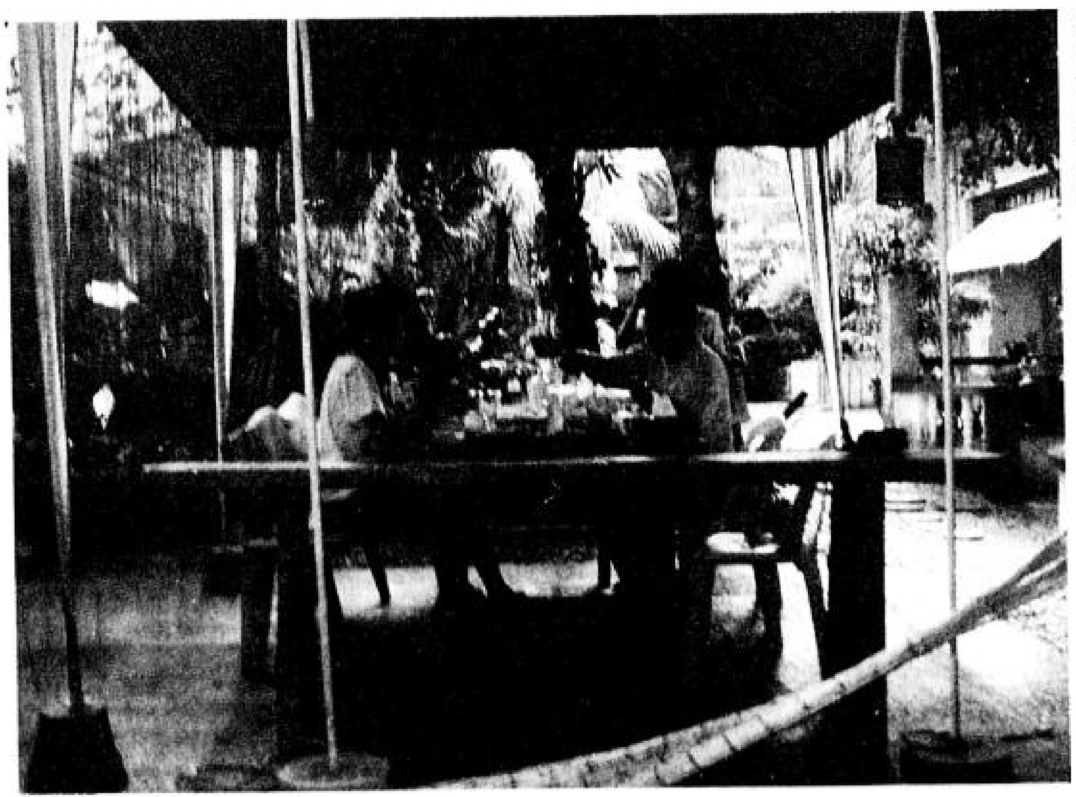

AFTER a good night's sleep in a soft bed, hearty breakfast follows at the garden of the De la Sernas. HAZEL P. VILLA

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This should appear on ICW's Supplement yesterday on page B9.
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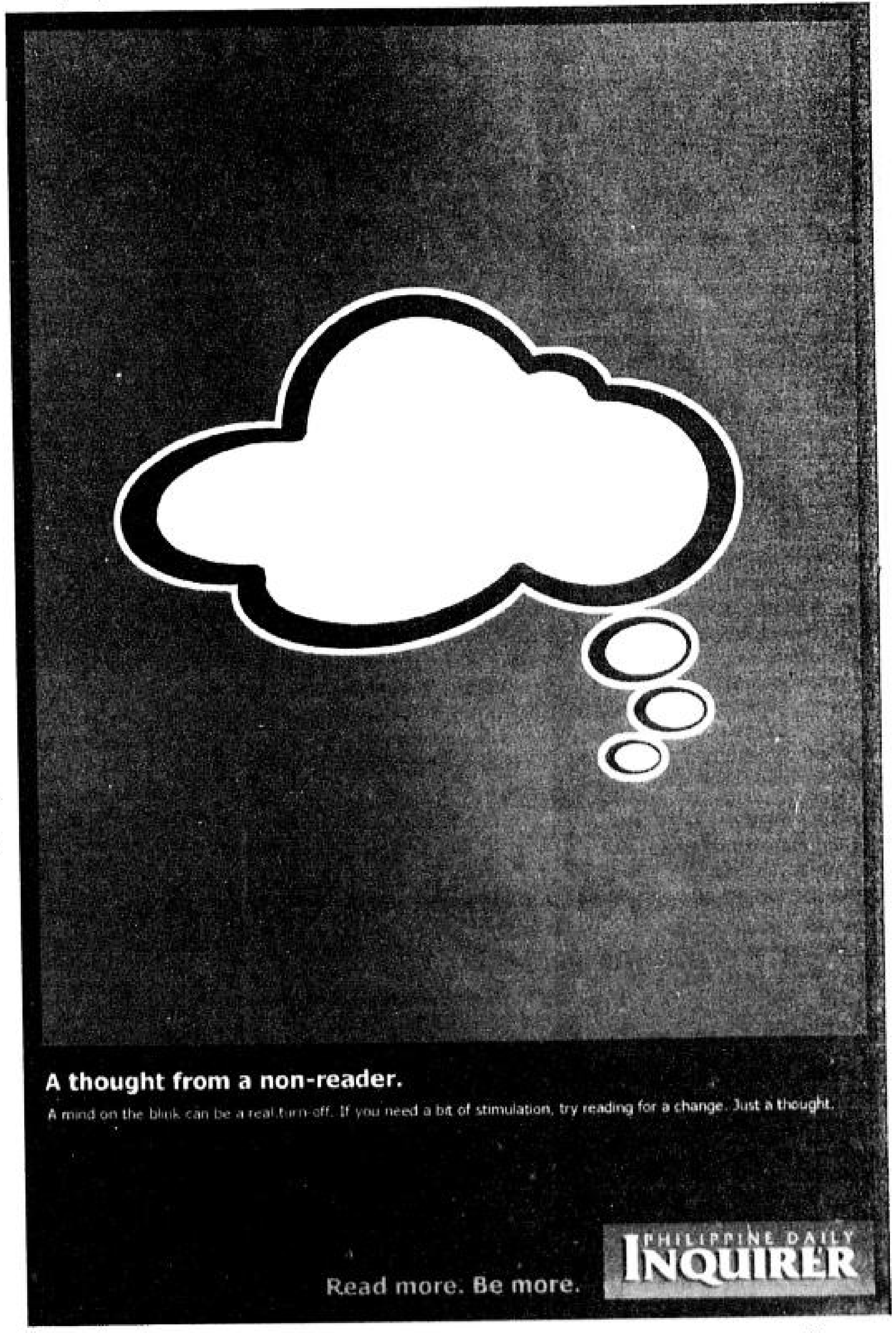
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Residents fight demolition on railway

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MEYCAUAYAN, Bulacan—Tension rose in this town on Friday after the government started the demolition of houses along the old Philippine National Railways' tracks to give way to the NorthRail project.

At least 100 residents armed with rocks and pieces of wood in Barangay Calvario faced the demolition team but violence was aborted when the team decided to back off.

Supt. Fernando Villanueva, police chief, said the demolition team assigned to the village decided not to proceed to avoid a confrontation with the residents.

The residents assailed local and National Housing Authority and officials, saying they were not provided with a decent relocation site. They said the government asked them to initially stay in tents after their houses were demolished.

In Barangay Bangkal, at least nine families volunteered to demolish their houses and transfer to a relocation site provided by the government in Barangay Bayugo.

While Robert Aquino, 36, his wife and two children did not want to leave their house, they were left with no other choice because they knew the project would push through and they would be eventually displaced.

But many of the 3,000 residents along the railroad said the 10-hectare relocation site was poorly prepared.

Mayor Eduardo Alarilla has urged the residents to be patient and stay in temporary shelters because houses in the site have yet to be built.

He said the local government had no hand in the demolition because the NorthRail project was a national government project.

The demolition of houses along the old PNR tracks in Bulacan would pave the way for the rehabilitation of the railroad for the NorthRail project that would run from Metro Manila to the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga.

Residents living along the railroad in Calumpit, Marilao, Bocaue, Balagtas, Guiguinto and Malolos will be displaced.

According to the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, 12,878 families living along the Bulacan segment of the NorthRail project area will be displaced.

A HUDCC statement said the clearing of the right of way of commercial and business establishments will be prioritized.

Many residents are vendors and members of the Pagkakaisa ng Mamamayan sa Riles (Pamaril) and the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay).

Constantino Lopez, 63, a resident, said they were told that they would receive P50,000 for building materials.

Residents have urged the government to continue with the dialogues to discuss their concerns about the project.

MILF slams decision clearing Metro blast suspect turned witness

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday assailed a court decision absolving a suspect in the Valentine's Day attack in Makati.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the decision of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 60 Judge Marissa Guillen to pardon Gappal Bannah Asali, alias Boy Negro, was unfair to the victims of the explosion.

Government prosecutors have earlier sought Asali's exclusion from the charges in exchange for his becoming a state witness against the other suspects, including ranking leaders of the Abu Sayyaf.

"That is not the justice system we are fighting for . . . If that practice will continue in our judicial process, we will suffer," Kabalu said.

He said state prosecutors should have ordered a deeper investigation of Asali's involvement in the bomb attack.

"It's unfair. By the court's decision, I think the victims of the bombing could hardly achieve justice," Kabalu said.

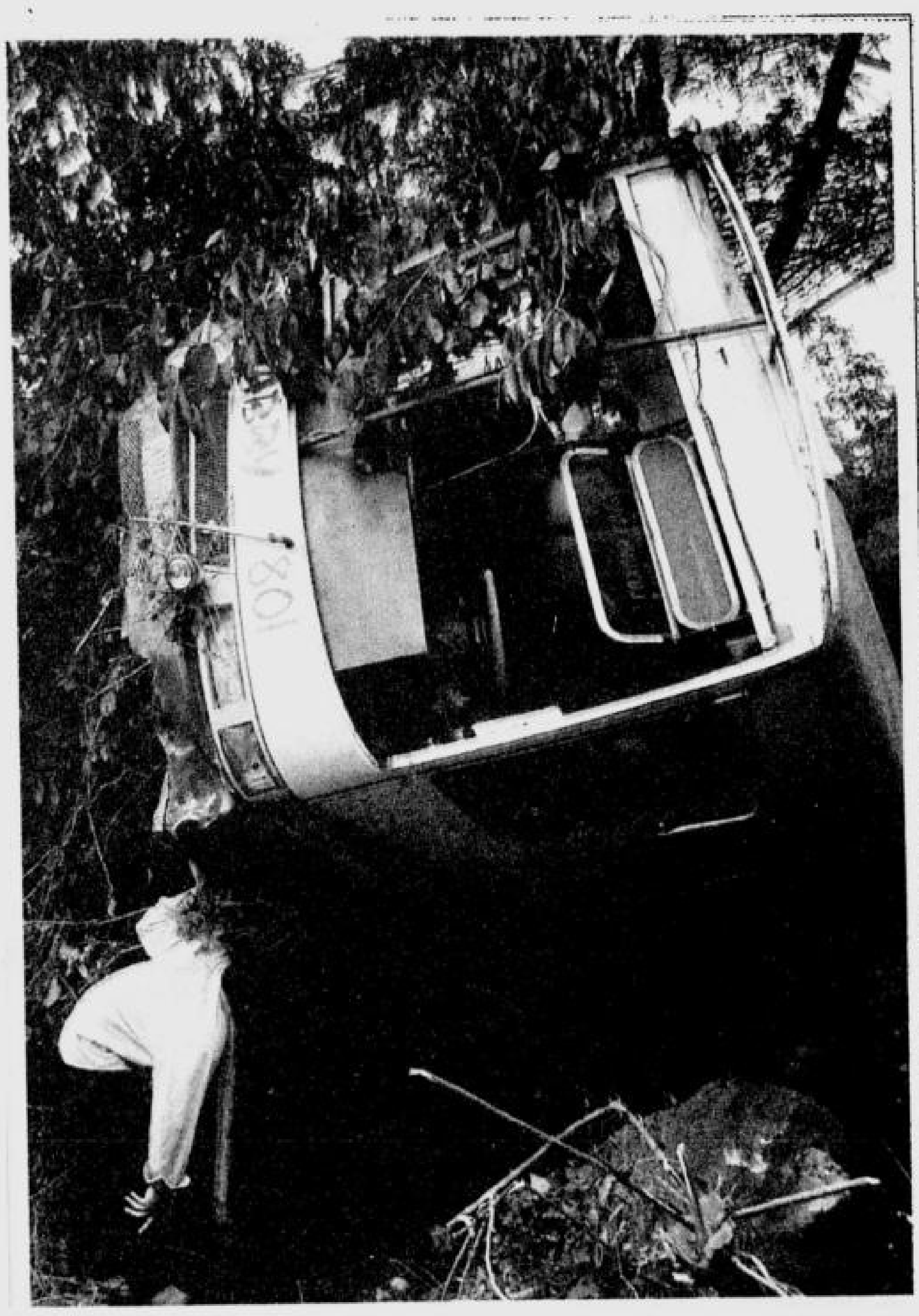
Kabalu said the government's treatment of the terror suspect is also double-sided.

"Many of our fellow Muslims disappeared, [were] summarily executed, arrested without warrants on suspicion of having links with international terrorists. But why was a self-confessed bomber cleared of any guilt? Is it because he is with the state?" he asked.

Asali reportedly supplied the explosive used in the bombing. He surrendered to authorities in Camarines Sur on March 3.

Asali admitted that Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Solaiman directed him to plant the bombs in a bus in Makati City.

The explosion killed three people and injured 94 others. The blast also set two nearby buses on fire. "This is a perverted justice system that rewards or frees criminals and glorifies treachery," Kabalu said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



WAYWARD

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A bus from Baguio City, bound for San Fernando City, La Union is stuck in trees and vegetation after it fell into a 30-foot ravine along Naguillan Road, Quirino Highway in Barangay Poblacion Burgos, La Union. There were no reported casualties.

Roxas water exec denies project scam

By Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—"My conscience is clear. Not a single centavo went into my pocket."

Carmen Andrade, Metro Roxas Water District (MRWD) board of directors chair, made this statement as she questioned the expertise of the fact-finding committee that found alleged irregularities in the water district's expansion project financed by two loan packages totaling P903 million.

Andrade, older sister of Roxas City Mayor Antonio del Rosario, also slammed Medardo Pestaño, MRWD general manager on leave, for criticizing the expansion project when he had all the chance to question it when it was approved early last year.

Pestaño now said that the committee's findings validated his earlier position that the project is not viable.

In her three-page reply to the 31-page report of the fact-finding committee (FFC) chaired by Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) Commissioner Nicasio Conti, Andrade said the FFC went beyond its scope.

Sen. Mar Roxas III created the FFC in the wake of questions from water consumers on the viability of the water expansion project.

Findings

The FFC, in its report, found that a component of the expansion project, the proposed water treatment plant, would not be beneficial to Metro Roxas in the long run. It also found that the level of water rates that would come with the project was not justified, and that the scheme or sequence of the project implementation was disadvantageous to the water district.

Andrade accused the FFC of not giving her and the rest of the water district's board members a chance to present their side, violating their right to due process.

"Where and who supplied them information? Although they were allowed to check . . . [this did] not give them the authority to have access to confidential matters such as those mentioned in their reports," said Andrade.

Andrade said Pestaño only started complaining that the expansion project was not viable in August 2004.

She said Pestaño had attended six meetings involving the expansion project and had full knowledge of it but was not questioned by the FFC.

Pestaño said he was vindicated when FFC recommended that the district's board of directors be charged at the Office of the Ombudsman.

"I'm happy that the FFC found the proposed water treatment plant project to be not viable and beneficial to MRWD," he said.

Pestaño, who has been the water district's general manager for three years, had to go on leave after the MRWD's board of directors, in February. He asked the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) to take over the water district's management and operation.

ROUNDUP

Couple found dead in ditch

SAN MANUEL, Pangasinan—A couple was found dead in an irrigation ditch in Barangay Sto. Domingo here on May 22. Police said the couple had bullet wounds in the heads. Reports said the man, whose penis was cut off, was estimated to be 30 years old and was about 5-foot-eight inches tall. He was wearing a shirt with print "Kenning Company" and corduroy pants. The woman, who was about 25 years old and 5-foot-6 inches tall, was wearing a red shirt with print "Boogie Jeans" and maong shorts. Their bodies were taken to the Salioa funeral parlor here. *Nemesio de la Cruz, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

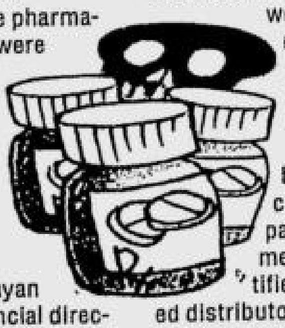
2 rebels shot dead

SAN RAFAEL, Bulacan—Two suspected communist rebels were shot and killed by policemen after the rebels reportedly gunned down a San Ildefonso policeman in Barangay Cruz na Daan here on Thursday. Chief Insp. Furlu Silvio, police chief, identified the slain rebels as Fernando Natividad and Guillermo Blas Bautista, both members of the Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan. Natividad and Bautista shot dead SPO1 Ramil Gutierrez in a convenience store here. Gutierrez was on his way to the provincial police headquarters in Malolos City when he was attacked. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Ex-PDEA exec shot, wounded

DAVAO CITY—An unidentified gunman on board a sports utility vehicle yesterday shot and critically wounded the former chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in regions 11 and 12, police said. Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur police chief Senior Insp. Danilo Obogon told GMA Super-Radyo here that Supt. Efren Alcuizar, now assigned to the Southern Mindanao regional police office, was with three other persons when he was shot at 10:30 a.m. while eating durian in Barangay Astorga. Alcuizar, who only stopped by on his way to General Santos City, was driven to a hospital here by one of his companions. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Fake medicines seized



LEGAZPI CITY—At least P500,000 worth of fake pharmaceutical products that were about to be distributed to different drugstores in Tabaco City were confiscated by elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group on Monday in Barangays San Antonio and Bantayan in the city. CIDG provincial director Supt. Bernard Tambaoan said the confiscated fake medicines were being passed off as products of United Laboratories. Some were regulated medicines from the Department of Health. The seized products were mostly medicines for tuberculosis and other common diseases, pain relievers and ointments. Tambaoan identified one of the suspected distributors of the fake medicines as Adelaida Boncolmo, who was arrested during the raid. *Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

AFP-PNP civil affairs group

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Joint AFP-PNP Civil Affairs Co. (Japca), which was put up on July 16, 2003, has conducted leadership summits attended by about 15,000 youths, according to 2Lt. Juvily de la Fuente-Cabading, spokesperson of the 204th Infantry Brigade based here. A first in the Army history, Japca's mission is to conduct community-based activities for development or nation building, Cabading said. The unit holds fora and consultations for the public and gives soldiers trainings on cultural sensitivity. Last year, a Mangyan leader lectured to them for three days on the Mangyan culture. Another one is scheduled for all troops in Oriental and Occidental Mindoro on the second week of June. The Japca also conducts seminars for women about their role in society. "We tell them that insurgency starts in the family," said Cabading.
Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cop, 6 others held for steel theft

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A policeman and his six companions were arrested on Tuesday night after they were caught cutting the steel beams of a three-ton railroad bridge in E.B. Magallona town, Negros Occidental.

Senior Insp. Santiago Rapiz, town police chief, identified the policeman as PO1 Nilo Parreño, desk officer of the E.B. Magallona police station.

He said the arresting police officers found Parreño supervising his companions in cutting steel beams of the bridge owned by the Hawaiian Philippine Co. in Hacienda San Jose, Barangay Damgo, E.B. Magalona, 23.9 km north of here.

The six were identified as Herman Cañete, Andy Alolor, Zandro Bacalocos, Raffy Tapada, Jade Botavara, all residents of E.B. Magalona; and Jerry Ecoy of Silay City.

Recovered from the suspects were two acetylene tanks, an LPG tank and one acetylene torch. Parreño was also divested of his .45 cal. pistol.

Rapiz said they also impounded an Isuzu cargo truck, which was supposed to be used by the suspects to transport the steel beams.

Police said they were able to catch the suspects in the act after they received a tip from a concerned citizen.

Parreño and his six companions were detained at the E.B. Magalona police station cell pending the filing of theft charges against them.

Benguet town shedding off marijuana image

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

KAPANGAN, Benguet—Marijuana farms still abound in this town but local officials are quick to deny that the town is still the country's marijuana capital.

Mayor Rogelio Leon said marijuana cultivation had been significantly reduced over the past few years due to the implementation of livelihood programs that had convinced farmers to stop raising the prohibited plant.

In a media forum here on Thursday, Leon said news reports about the town's remaining marijuana plantations "may have created the wrong impression that the town is still the number one producer of marijuana."

He quoted as an example reports that followed President Macapagal-Arroyo's March 12 directive in Baguio City to build farm to market roads leading to the town's marijuana farms.

"We are not anymore the country's marijuana capital. [The tag was more appropriate during] the 1970s when hectares of marijuana farms existed due to lack of development. But definitely, [the situation is different] today," he said.

Leon said today, marijuana is cultivated only in seven sitios (sub villages) found in four of the town's most remote villages.

He said marijuana is grown sporadically in Alem and Liteng in Barangay Sagubo, Lao-angan and Kopyas in Barangay Gaddang, Tawang in Barangay Beling-belis, and Tuplak and Tadayan in Barangay Pudong.

He said the marijuana farms in these areas are scattered in ravines and can only be reached after a three to four-hour hike from the road's end.

"And there are no syndicates protecting or maintaining these farms," Leon said, adding that the plantations were maintained by local farmers.

In a bid to eradicate the remaining marijuana farms, Leon said the local government continues to implement alternative programs for farmers such as the planting of anthurium, apiculture or beekeeping and goat raising.

In 2002, local officials decided to buy 10,000 anthurium cuttings from Paulino Burcio, the town's only anthurium grower, and distributed them to farmers in the seven sub-villages for propagation.

Leon said the income from the three livelihood projects looked promising for the farmers.

BAGONG BUHAY
NA KAMI HA!

GMA to go 'one-on-one' with plain folks

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo walks on the newly inaugurated board walk of the Misibis residential resort with owner Zaldy Co during her visit in Bacacay, Albay. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AFTER forcing the bitter pill of tax reforms on an unwilling public, President Macapagal-Arroyo is taking a hands-on approach to make sure that the benefits of these measures will trickle down to the masses.

This is the reason why the President abandoned her 12-month-old *"pulong bayan"* or town hall meeting strategy and began holding a series of low-key, no-frills meetings with "ordinary people" in Mindanao over the past three days.

She said the meetings were a prelude to phase 2 of her economic reform program.

"I need to listen to the people without any intermediary eyes and ears," the President said at a media briefing in Legazpi City.

She reported that she conducted four focused group discussions in Mindanao—one in Cagayan de Oro with the business community, one in General Santos with class D citizens, and two in Davao with businessmen and class D members—"so I can decide now how to operationalize phase 2, especially with regard to Mindanao, which has the most serious poverty problem in our country today."

Ms Arroyo's trust and popularity ratings have plunged largely over public dissatisfaction with her handling of the economy. Her determined push for tax reforms needed to solve the country's deficit problem has further alienated her from the masses.

This is why she is determined that the second phase of her economic reform program would focus on bringing the benefits of higher government revenues to the masses in the form of increased spending for public health and education and higher allocations for micro-financing for small entrepreneurs.

"We have shared the pain and we will share the gain as we strengthen our fiscal footing and drive a turning point in the new Philippine economy," she said.

Ms Arroyo cited the Fitch Ratings' recent upgrade of the Philippines' credit rating outlook from negative to stable as the vindication of her unpopular tax reform program.

"The action of Fitch signals the start of payback time for the Filipino people. This is a clear victory of phase 1 of our economic reforms and marks the starting line for phase two as we carry down the benefits of our tough decisions to the broad masses, deliver basic needs and spare them from the impact of high prices," the President said.

She said her economic reform agenda was "far from over."

"Business confidence must be reinforced with efficient tax collection, and our revitalized fight against graft and corruption," Ms Arroyo said.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo talks to Mrs. Marina Endrinal, widow of slain radio commentator Rowell Endrinal, during the presentation of suspected killer identified as Clarito Arizobal at the Legazpi City airport. EDWIN BACASMAS

Journalists hit censors' order

From page A1

PD 1986 was one of more than 2,000 edicts issued by Marcos after he placed the country under martial law in 1972 and suppressed dissent.

"Please be advised to submit materials of the aforementioned television programs to the Board for review and approval prior to telecast, effective immediately," said a copy of the circular provided to the INQUIRER by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

It said failure to comply would mean sanctions. Under the Marcos decree, sanctions included fines and imprisonment.

The circular was addressed to television station managers, blocktimers and their representatives.

A jurassic fossil

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said in a text message that the circular "constitutes unconstitutional prior restraint and violates free speech." House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Minority Leader Francis Escudero agreed.

Escudero urged Malacañang to rescind the Laguardia directive, saying the Palace could not afford another scandal.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño said PD 1986 was "a jurassic, Marcosian fossil that should be done away with if we value our rights and freedom and if we truly detest autocracy."

He recalled that the Marcos directive was used to censor government critics during martial law.

Abolish MTRCB

Casiño called on Congress to expedite the passage of House Bill No. 4080, which sought to abolish the MTRCB and replace it with an MTCB, or Movie and Television Classification Board, "which will only classify movie and television materials."

"As long as the current MTRCB law remains in force, there is always a clear and present danger for censorship," Casiño warned.

'Dictatorial rule?'

He said the circular was "poisonous to press freedom" and added: "Laguardia should be made to explain the objectives and motives behind her directive."

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said the MTRCB memo was clearly state censorship.

"It's a sign of burgeoning dictatorial rule," he said.

Beltran noted that a growing number of journalists had been killed in the country and added: "Now, the fruit of their efforts are also being subjected to possible censorship."

At least five journalists have been murdered in the country this year, adding to the 13 killed last year. This has prompted the foreign-based Committee to Project Journalists to call the Philippines the most murderous place in the world for reporters.

Beltran said it was alarming that the Arroyo administration "and its allies in the Supreme Court and the other main branches of government are resorting to measures that curtail freedom of the press."

Davide asked to explain

"Clearly, the controversial, anomalous and even shocking developments in the country's economic and political workings are getting out of hand, and the national government is stepping in to control the flow and dissemination of information and analysis," he said.

The leftist lawmaker said Chief Justice Hilario Davide should be made to answer for the high court decision which the MTRCB had used to justify its circular.

Nograles said: "Maybe the lawyer advising the MTRCB should review again his (or her) 'political and constitutional law."

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GMA on Mike: He'll be back soon

From page A1

Later reports said Arroyo had flown to the United States.

But brother Ignacio contradicted this the other day, saying the First Gentleman had actually proceeded to South Korea to speak before civic groups there.

Arroyo is expected to return home either today or tomorrow, according to his brother.

On his part, Arroyo's spokesperson, lawyer Jess Santos, said his client would come home soon but admitted he did not know exactly when.

Santos said he last spoke to the First Gentleman last Tuesday and that he told him he intended to come back soon.

Santos said that until now, the office of the First Gentleman had yet to receive any invitation from the three investigative bodies that were looking into allegations that gambling payoffs were going into the pockets of high officials in government.

To answer accusations

"But we're ready to face any inquiry," Santos said in a phone interview.

The Senate is set to start its inquiry on jueteng on Monday. The House, on its part, is to resume its own hearing anytime.

The Department of Justice said it was preparing to conduct its own investigation.

Clear conscience

"He is coming home at once to answer all these unfounded accusations," Santos said in GMA 7's "Debate" show on Thursday night.

Santos said his client had told him that if his unnamed accusers had the gall to hurl charges against him, he had no fears of facing them because his conscience was clear.

Santos said the President's husband had also said he would appear in the investigation of the Senate or the Department of Justice to answer the accusations.

But Santos said he did not see any reason for the DOJ to investigate the First Gentleman because the allegations were untrue.

Santos also could not say exactly where the First Gentleman was and when he was due to return.

"What I know is that he is in Singapore," Santos said. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Viagra label may now include . . .

From page A1

vestigating, but has no evidence yet that the drug is to blame, said spokesperson Susan Cruzan.

This type of blindness is called NAION, or non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy. It can occur in men who are diabetic or have heart disease, the same conditions that can cause impotence and thus lead to Viagra use.

The FDA has 50 reports of the blindness. Viagra has been taken by more than 23 million men worldwide.

"We take this seriously," said FDA's Cruzan.

On its website, Viagra manufacturer Pfizer Inc., states: "The most common side effects of Viagra are headache, facial flushing, and upset stomach. Less common are bluish or blurred vision, or being sensitive to light. These may occur for a short time." That language had been available before the current inquiry.

Pfizer spokesperson Daniel Watts confirmed Friday that the drugmaker was in discussions with the FDA about adding a disclosure to Viagra's label to say that in rare cases, men taking Viagra had developed blindness. However, he said there is no proof that Viagra caused the blindness. He said that men who take Viagra often have high blood pressure and high cholesterol, which are also associated with the conditions that can cause blindness.

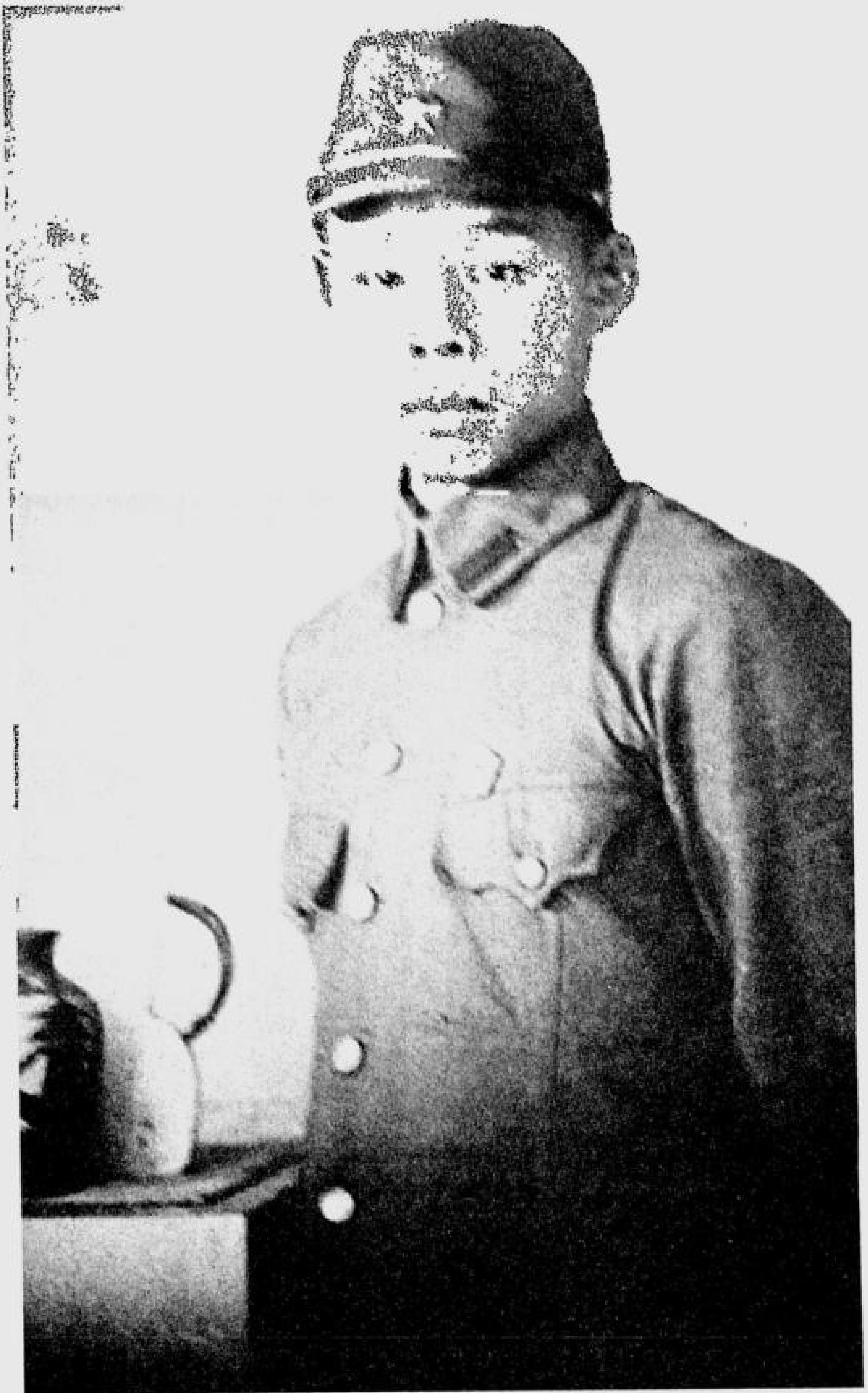
FDA is working with Pfizer to determine what, if any, information about the condition should be added to the drug's label. The story was first reported by US television network CBS.

Viagra was approved by the government in 1998. It may aid in the treatment of enlarged hearts that can result from high blood pressure, tests on animals indicate.

Viagra, approved to treat erectile dysfunction, should not be used by men with heart conditions whose doctors have warned them not to have sex. Also, patients taking drugs that contain nitrates have been warned not to take Viagra because of sudden, unsafe drops in blood pressure.

The drug's label also warns of erections lasting longer than four hours, painful erections lasting longer than six hours, headache, flushed skin and vision problems.

Pfizer Inc., the New York-based maker of Viagra, said in its most recent quarterly filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission that sales of the drug rose 5 percent—to $438 million in the first quarter of the year. Pfizer also said at the time that Viagra had a 68 percent worldwide market share. *AP*



UNDATED portrait of Japanese Imperial Army soldier Tsuzuki Nakauchi, believed to be one of two former Japanese servicemen who have been hiding in the mountains in Mindanao since World War II. AP

2 suspected Japanese stragglers sighted

From page A1

too early to draw any conclusions, saying there was no evidence yet that the men were WWII fighters.

"We even don't know the existence of such people, that's why we are checking," Ogawa said by phone from General Santos City. "We don't have direct contact yet with them. We just arrived."

Hiroo Onoda

The reports were reminiscent of World War II straggler Lt. Hiroo Onoda, who believed the war was still on when he was found in the jungles of the Philippines in 1974. He refused to give up until March of that year, when the Japanese government flew in his former commander to formally inform him the war was over.

Japan's Kyodo News agency said the two may be Yoshio Yamakawa, 87, and Tsuzuki Nakauchi, 83. But the Health Ministry in Tokyo declined to confirm the report saying they could not disclose any information until officials have identified them.

Embassy officials "want to meet directly with those two persons to find out if they are really Japanese soldiers, (and to find out details) beginning with their names and age," Watanabe said.

Watanabe declined to give other details.

The Japanese newspaper Sankei Shimbun said the two had been in the mountains of Mindanao for about 60 years. The newspaper said it was highly likely that they belonged to a group known as the "Panther Division."

Last September, a Japanese national who is in the lumber business ran into the two men in the mountains. It was learned later that they want to go back to Japan but were afraid of facing a court-martial for withdrawing from action, the Sankei said.

Another source told the paper that there may be more than 40 other Japanese soldiers living in the mountains and they all want to return to Japan, the Sankei said. *AP, AFP*

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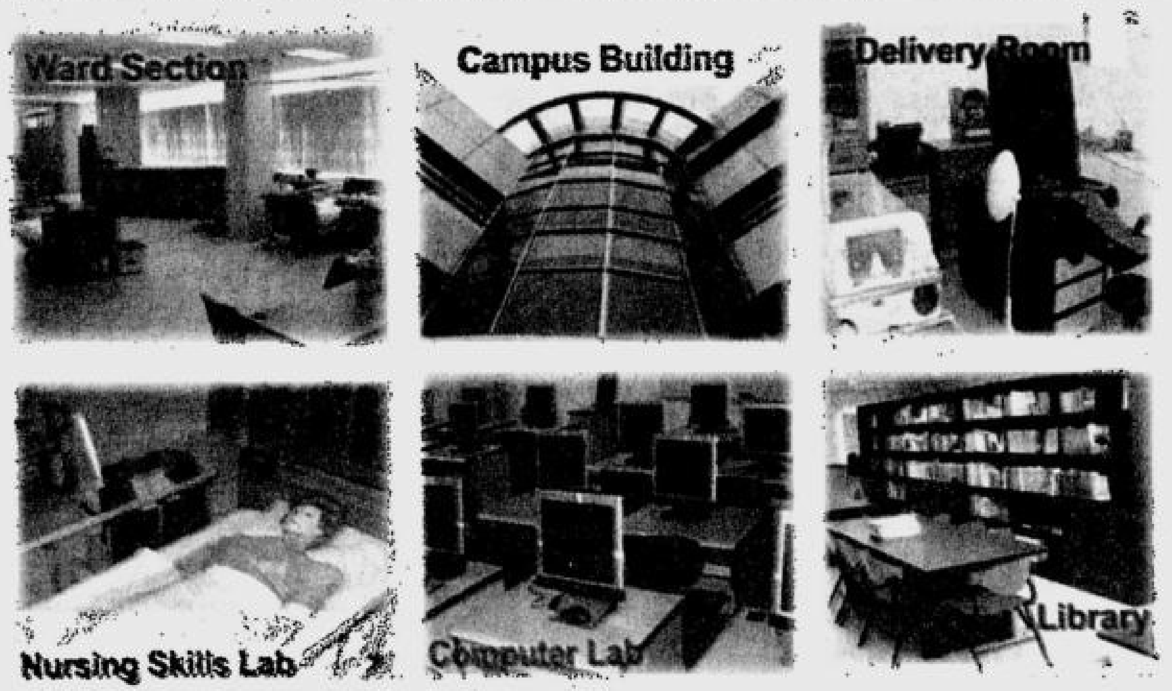

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Former general tagged in QC gunplay

NEIGHBORS accused a retired general and his brother of opening fire and seriously wounding a construction worker over a parking dispute in Quezon City yesterday morning.

Retired Brig. Gen. Virgilio David and his brother Romeo allegedly shot at employees of ZMR Construction after Romeo reportedly had an argument with one of the owners of the firm.

David, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1962, is also a former administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority, while ZMR is a contractor of the Manila Water Company.

According to investigator PO2 Edwin de la Cruz, the incident happened along St. Martin Street inside Rosalia II subdivision in Barangay Tandang Sora.

Roberto Regala, 39, a son of the owners of the construction firm, said that before the incident, his brother Reynaldo parked their Toyota Rav 4 on a vacant lot in front of the house of Romeo at 30 St. Martin Street.

At about 7 a.m., Romeo reportedly arrived on board his car and ordered 42-year-old Reynaldo to get his Rav 4 off the lot because it was purportedly blocking the way.

Regala said Romeo cursed Reynaldo, who then engaged him in an exchange of invectives.

Romeo went into his house and came out already carrying a shotgun, Regala said.

Regala added that the retired general, who lives nearby, arrived brandishing a baby armalite.

The so-called baby armalite is a Colt AR15 assault rifle, is a variant of the M16 rifle.

David and Romeo then allegedly fired their guns at the workers in front of the ZMR building.

De la Cruz said a worker, Victor Daniel, was hit in the neck and leg and was brought to the East Avenue Medical Center for treatment.

The Davids went inside their house and refused to come out without a lawyer, police said.

At about 3 p.m., David came out and gave himself up to the police, said Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr., Central Police District director.

Romeo was no longer at home.

In an interview, David denied that he had a gun during the incident. He even doubted that anyone was shot.

He noted that there were no blood stains at the scene and there was no commotion when the shooting allegedly happened.

But the investigator said bloodstains could be seen at the scene. He added that witnesses saw David picking up spent rifle shells after the alleged shooting.

Asked about Romeo, David said that his brother was not in hiding but was on his way to police headquarters in Camp Karingal.

However, Romeo was a no show at the CPD headquarters as of press time.

The Regalas said David could be harboring ill will against them because of a libel case their father Aquilino filed against the former general.

The case stemmed from a request by David, who is also president of the subdivision homeowners association, that Manila Water revoke ZMR's contract because of allegations presented by the former military official.

Lawyer Harold Alcantara said the David brothers would be charged with frustrated homicide.

DJ Yap

Manila's Finest out to regain old glory

Margaux C. Ortiz

STANDING next to the Western Police District (WPD) Headquarters in Manila is a white and blue building, a monument to the city's proud history and fitting tribute to the city's "finest" policemen.

Three decades after it closed in 1971, the Manila Police Academy was reopened early this year to revive the police force's flagging morale and reinstate its "glorious past," according to Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling, Jr., in-charge of curriculum development and planning office.

"The academy was originally conceived in 1922 as a formal training center for police recruits," Yanquiling said.

THE MANILA Police Academy stands as a monument for past glory and a beacon for the future of law enforcement in the city.

REM ZAMORA

In-house training

"With the Philippine National Police's training camps performing that function, the academy's main vision would be to provide in-house and specialized training for all policemen in the district, regardless of rank," he said.

Yanquiling explained that Manila policemen, who had been called "Manila's Finest," could use additional and continuous training to live up to that claim.

The academy official, also the WPD Museum curator and head of the district's Task Force Galugad, said the Manila Police's beginnings went back to about a century ago.

Mostly Americans

"The Manila Police Department's duties then covered the entire country," Yanquiling said. He said members of the MPD, then composed mostly of Americans, were deployed to different areas in the country.

In 1922, then Manila Police chief John W. Green established the first training school for recruits. Newly appointed policemen had to take a prescribed course before being assigned to the field.

Yanquiling said training at the old academy, initially located at the Bagumbayan Police Station before being relocated at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, lasted 18 months.

Shorter training

"Now it only takes four months to complete the police basic course," Yanquiling said.

Back then, rookies had their own field training officers (FTO), experienced lawmen who left no room for error.

"During that time, a corporal was considered a god by the rookies," Yanquiling said, grinning. "The FTOs made sure they trained the new policemen the right way so they would do their jobs honorably."

Yanquiling also said Manila policemen had a "bible," which they knew by heart.

"It was a thick little booklet… containing rules and regulations," he said. Violations of the police's codes of conduct could mean automatic dismissal.

Yanquiling added, "As a result, the Manila police were looked up to by everyone, men in uniform who were dignified and honorable."

Hence, they were called Manila's Finest, just as New York City's policemen are called its "Finest".

Revitalization

With the academy's reopening, Manila police officials led by WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong hope to revitalize the force.

Yanquiling said they would require all personnel to undergo specialized training to improve their skills.

"Even if you are the chief or district director and you belong to the command group, you will be required to attend training," he stressed.

Yanquiling, with Special Training Unit chief Senior Insp. Wilfredo Natividad will also try to resolve at the academy problems with policemen transferred to the city from other areas.

They encounter problems when newly reassigned policemen "bungle" the work for lack of knowledge of basic ordinances and decorum.

"Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has often been an unfortunate victim of these untrained policemen," Yanquiling said.

Not recognized

He said a rookie policemen last week shone his flashlight on Atienza's face, not recognizing the city mayor.

Yanquiling said two policemen at the Baywalk area also did not recognize the mayor, mistakenly referring to him as "*pare*".

"We try to solve this problem with the orientation course for reassigned policemen," he said adding that, aside from geography and lessons on courtesy, the policemen would also undergo a special "radio dispatcher's course" to polish their diction while using police equipment.

Natividad, in a separate interview, said all their personnel would undergo explosives seminars, firearms proficiency, narcotics training and other related topics.

"Guest lecturers from the prosecutor's office would also talk about the proper way to conduct investigations (so) their cases would not be dismissed upon reaching the courts," Natividad said.

5,000 cops to 'babysit' students

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE in Metro Manila will deploy 5,000 of its men to watch over students when classes open in June.

Special attention would be given to "high-end" schools, especially those catering to Chinese-Filipino students, to thwart possible kidnappings, said Director Vidal Querol.

"We have started coordinating with school security officials, parents teachers associations and barangay officers in preparation for the opening of classes," said Querol, National Capital Region Police Office director.

Special concern

"Of special concern would be Chinese-Filipino and other high-end schools," Querol said.

But he quickly added that this would not mean that less policemen would be guarding public schools.

The official said he wanted students, including those coming from the provinces, to "feel secure" in Metro Manila. He added that he did not want them to encounter anything untoward.

The police, along with barangay and school officials, would be forming a security umbrella around schools, he said.

Police officials will be holding a dialogue with stake holders in the education sector next week, Querol added.

Train stations secure

Yesterday, Querol visited train stations and malls in Cubao, Quezon City, and Greenhills in San Juan.

He said security officers of the Light Rail and Metro Rail Transits had briefed him of what they had done so far to ensure the safety of thousands of students expected to be back in Metro Manila in the next few days.

In 2003, a total of 183,629 public school students went to school when classes opened.

The AFP chief's bad mood

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

"JUETENG" probe losing steam—INQUIRER's banner headline yesterday.

The current noise about jueteng will eventually die down in the next few weeks. Politicians and police officials will lose interest in their investigations since they have to attend to more pressing problems.

Numerous investigations have been made at the Senate and the House of Representatives on jueteng but these amounted to nothing.

Jueteng operations stopped for sometime and resumed with a vengeance when the government focused on something else. The problem will reappear when some politicians or clergymen make a big noise.

The only way to stop the perennial problem of jueteng, masiao and "last two," which is very popular in Mindanao, is to legalize it.

* * *

I received a letter from Fr. Jose G. Ingaran of the Clergy Retirement House in Isabela. He thinks legalizing jueteng is the only way to solve the problem.

Excerpts from the priest's letter:

"Last week my letter to PDI editors which was published presented my view about [jueteng]. I said jueteng is here to stay because gambling is an ingredient of Filipino culture. We gamble on anything. We almost always follow up and wind up our statements with '*pustahan tayo.*' I just don't see how Archbishop (Oscar) Cruz and others look at jueteng as something so horrendous. Jueteng is like any other human act. Eating is good but becomes bad when you overeat. Drinking wine is good for the heart but can be harmful if taken in excess. So with jueteng. It is usually done for a pastime. It becomes harmful when you gamble what you earn to feed the family.

"Mr. Tulfo, as you said, jueteng, if legalized, can be the only way out. By legalizing jueteng all these so-called wars will come to an end."

* * *

I wonder what Archbishop Cruz of the Lingayen-Dagupan prelature has to say about the bingo socials and raffles that many clergymen organize to build or repair churches?

Bingo and raffles are a form of gambling. Jueteng is no different from bingo and raffles.

* * *

Willem van Engelenburg, 44, and his brother Eric, 38, were shot dead by agents of the Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force headed by Rey Jaylo.

The two reportedly shot it out with Jaylo's men who were serving them a court warrant for allegedly recruiting Filipino women for cybersex.

May their deaths send a clear signal to other foreigners that their illegal activities in the country will not go unpunished.

A number of Mainland Chinese drug traffickers have been killed (more likely executed) by government agents.

Jaylo, in his own inimitable way, has sent a message to criminal foreigners: Don't mess with us.

* * *

Gen. Efren Abu, Armed Forces chief of staff, was in a bad mood the other day after coming from his confirmation hearing at the Commission on Appointments.

For the nth time he was again bypassed.

Abu reportedly shouted at and cursed his subordinates at his office. My mole said he also cussed the media for the adverse publicity. He also cussed the senators and congressmen who were giving him a hard time.

Relax, General. You might have a heart attack.

Intermodal transport terminal to rise in QC

By Tarra V. Quismundo

BENT at showing it could work amid controversy, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday sealed a deal for a multi-million peso project that would create an organized transport terminal on Edsa.

The agency yesterday forged an agreement with private company New San Jose Builder's Inc. (NSJBI) to begin construction of the North Road Rail Station Phase 2, a project that would complete an intermodal transport facility for northern Metro Manila.

Through a Memorandum of Agreement the MMDA signed with NSJBI yesterday afternoon, the agency has been allowed to use a 7,100-sqm property leased to the firm for the construction of a sprawling transport terminal.

To settle any legal problem that may ensue, the MMDA said the project had been approved two years ago by the Metro Manila Council, the agency's policy making body, through Resolution No. 03-07.

Working as a team

"I trust in living the concept of working as a team. My colleagues in the MMC will always see the MMDA as a partner in the search for the best formula to manage traffic in the metropolis," MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said in a statement.

The project, which the agency estimated may cost at least P25 million, would begin in July. It is expected to be completed early next year.

The terminal would be built near the North Avenue Station of the Metro Rail Transit.

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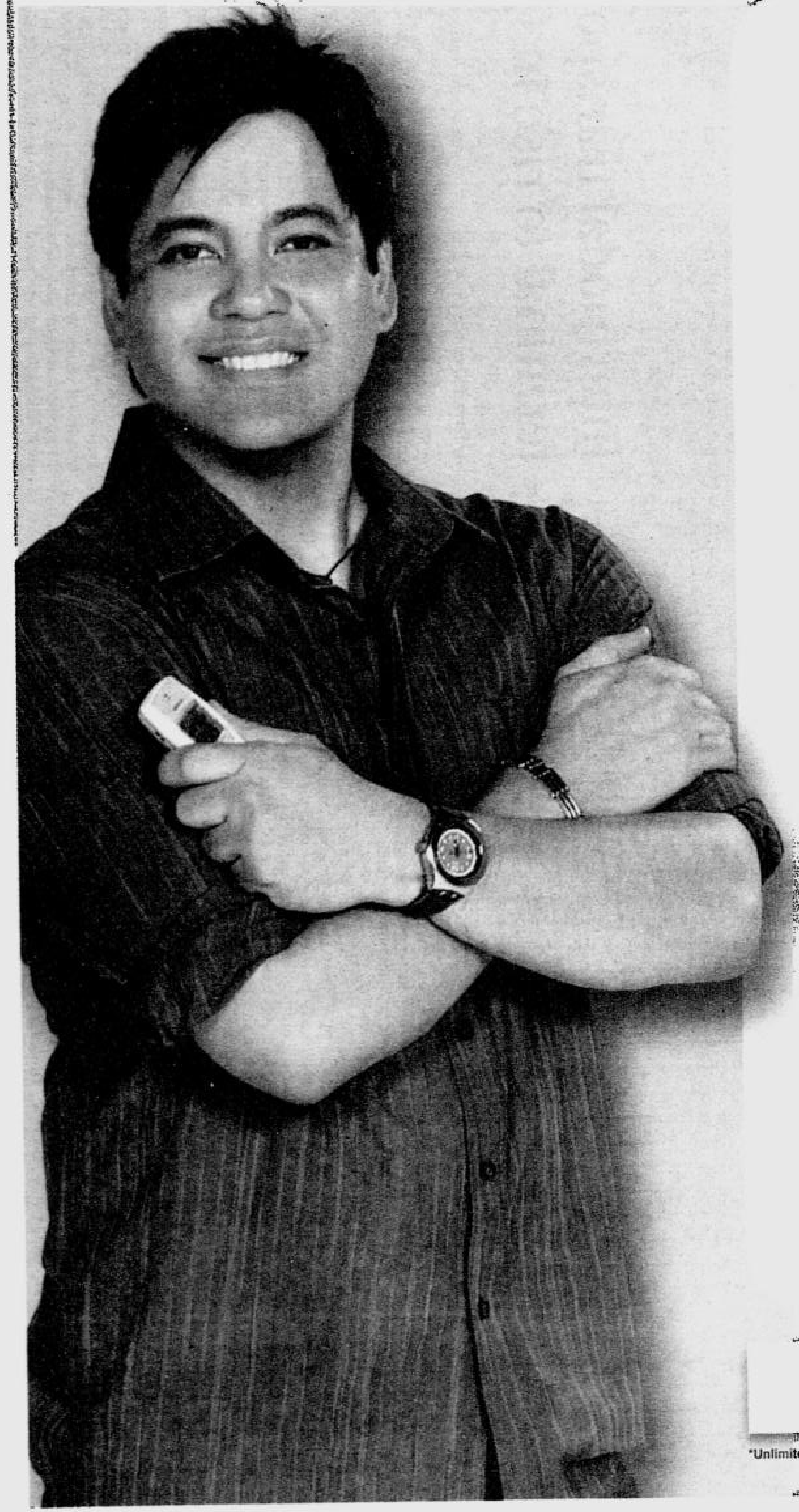

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You will receive a call from

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Answer the call and you will hear a ring tone.
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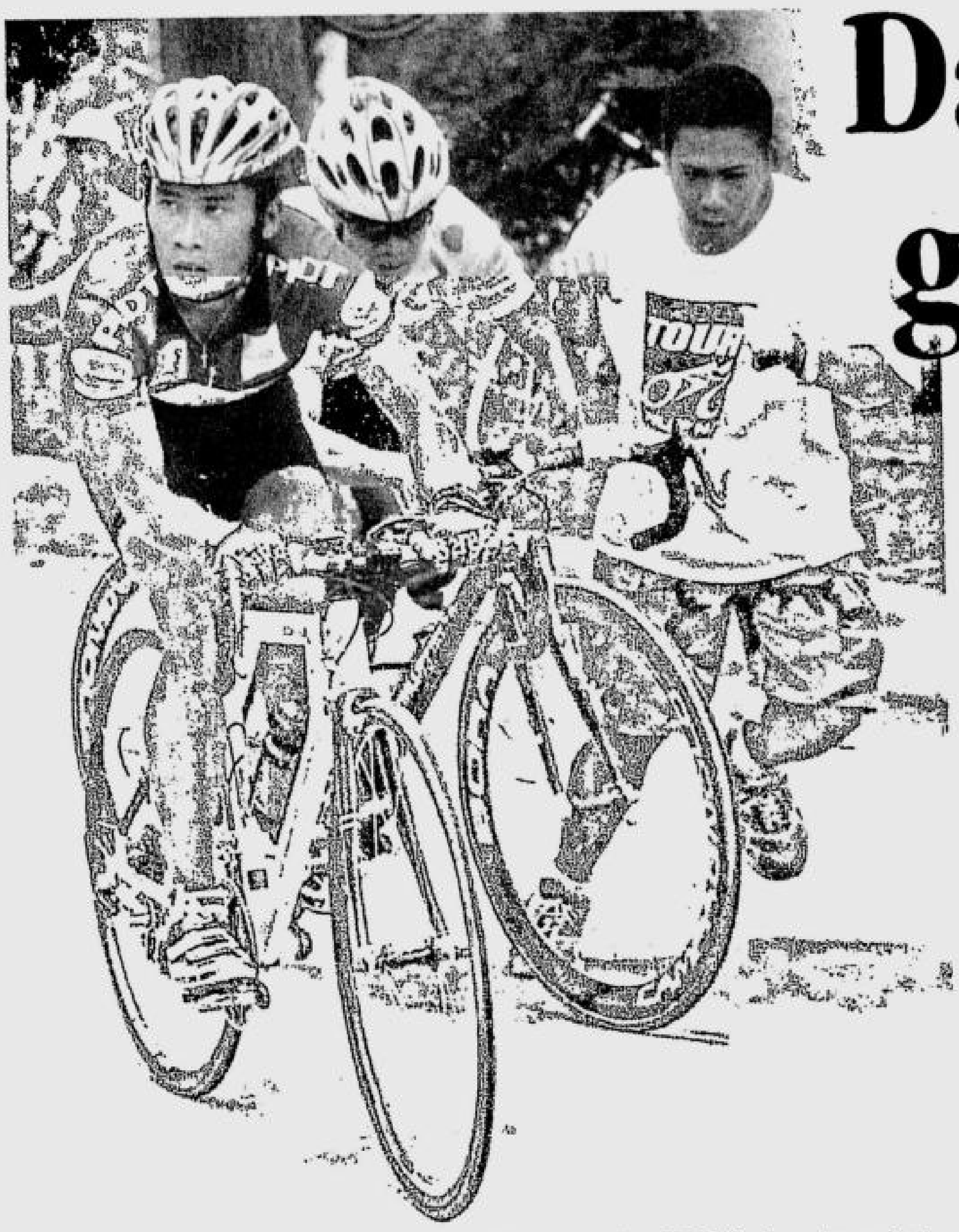
WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Farrales, Gonzales forge title clash /A23
■ Roddick crashes out in upset; Sharapova, Mauresmo advance /A24
■ Old bitter rivals join hands to fuel Heat /A26
■ Pagulayan, Bustamante rout foes /A27

Davadilla tops lap, grabs overall lead



WARREN Davadilla (right) of Colt 45 shadows Rhyan Tanguilig of PLDT in the arduous climb to Tagaytay City via Talisay, three kilometers to the finish. BOY CABRIDO

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TAGAYTAY CITY—Former champion Warren Davadilla captured what could be the most difficult lap outside of the Baguio stages but visibly with help from last year's winner Rhyan Tanguilig, who graciously gave way in the final 50 meters in yesterday's Stage 2 of the Golden Tour 50@05 here.

The stage victory gave Davadilla, Colt 45 captain, the yellow jersey going into today's Stage 3 from Tuy, Batangas, and then back here, but everybody's attention was focused on Tanguilig, the PLDT skipper, who claimed he's out of shape but certainly didn't look it.

For the stage triumph, Davadilla clocked two hours, 43 minutes and three seconds, the same time as Tanguilig's, who is only one minute and 51 seconds behind him in the overall race.

They now hold the 1-2 position in the stage and overall results, relegating first stage winner Santy Barnachea (Touch Mobile) to fourth place. Alvin Benosa also of Touch Mobile and Fernando Alagano of Metro Drug occupy the third and fifth places overall, respectively.

While a visibly spent Davadilla crossed the line atop the People's Park in the Sky, Tanguilig, was still a picture of restrained power, trailing him by half-a-bike in the stage which featured the steep climbs of the newly introduced mountainside route known here as "Sungay."

"I just had a good night's sleep," said Tanguilig, who last Thursday claimed he was still out of shape. But his strong performance belied his statement as he made his presence felt throughout the 91.09-kilometer stage from Lucena City.

This early, pundits are betting on the controversial 25-year-old who might be using a ploy that won for him the 2004 Tour Pilipinas crown. Last year he stalked the leaders throughout before pouncing on them in the climbing stages of Baguio to take the yellow jersey for good.

"I just saw an opportunity to keep up with them," quipped Tanguilig. "But the stage win is really for Warren, he worked long and hard for it."

But Davadilla, seated beside Tanguilig in the post-stage interview, quickly refuted it. "Make no mistake about it, he's strong," said the 30-year-old 1998 Centennial Tour champ.

The finish line was some 50 meters away from the last of the countless hairpin curves where Tanguilig held back as Davadilla furiously pumped it up to take the P10,000 stage purse aside from the P10,000 from Mayor Bambol Tolentino.

The Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya pride toddled with the third group most of the way before pushing himself into the lead pack entering Tanauan and engaging Davadilla, Department of Tourism's Oscar Rendole, Guerrero Brandy's Danny Ganigan going up the 10-kilometer climbing finale in Talisay town.

The climb, which according to race manager Paking Rivas falls under category 1, was actually a hike of only 750 meters but involved countless series of lofty and abrupt elbow turns.

"It prevents you from changing gear," said Davadilla of the course used for the first time in the 50 years of the Tour.

From Lucena City, the peloton only began to break in the traffic-jammed streets of Alaminos, Laguna, allowing Ganigan, Rendole and Benosa to launch up front. But by the time they passed Tanauan, Davadilla and Tanguilig were already riding strongly to make their move.

Going up, Ganigan briefly held the pole, while Davadilla and Rendole gave chase. Less than 100 meters behind were Barnachea, Tourism's Oscar Hualda and Tanguilig.

Rendole got a flat tire, Ganigan's leg gave up and soon Davadilla and Tanguilig were left to take the lead.

New direction for RP basketball to be charted in POC meet today

COJUANGCO out to sort the sport's concerns.

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee will meet with the basketball caretaker committee today and will try to identify the concerns of the sport first before naming the people who will occupy sensitive positions.

Representatives from the professional PBA, the PBL, the UAAP and the NCAA are expected to attend, together with other major players in the game, at POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco's residence.

Meanwhile, Cojuangco yesterday formalized the appointment of Go Teng Kok as the POC representative to the organizing committee of the Fiba-Asia Champion's Cup set to start tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We need to identify the concerns of the sport first (with the various representatives) before Mr. Cojuangco names people to certain posts," said Cojuangco spokesman Joey Romasanta.

"I'm sure he has the names (of candi-

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'STOP-CARDONA!'

Kornets, Portmasters dispute last semis slot

TAKE Mac Cardona out of Harbour Centre's offensive equation.

It's the strategy coach Jun Tan will stick to once again when his Granny Goose Kornets battle the Portmasters for the remaining semifinal berth in the PBL Unity Cup today at the Blue Eagle Gym in Ateneo.

With Cardona shackled, Granny Goose forged a knockout match after slipping past Harbour Centre, 78-76, in their quarterfinal game last Thursday.

"That was our game plan," said Tan after the Kornets visibly frustrated the league's top scorer. "We didn't want Cardona to score especially in the fourth quarter."

The winner of the 3:30 p.m. duel will join Montaña Pawnshop, Welcoat and defending champion Magnolia Ice Cream in the Final Four.

Harbour Centre swept its two games against Granny Goose in the elimination round, with Cardona drilling a conference-best 33 points in each encounter.

But Tan made sure there would be no more Cardona show as the Kornets ganged up on the popular guard, limiting him to only two free throws in the second half and forcing him to commit five turnovers.

"We have to tighten our defense, especially on Cardona, to win," said Tan as the Kornets vie for their second straight semifinal appearance. "If we allow Cardona to do his usual thing in the game, we will be in trouble. We want our game to be a fast one. And we want to get the rebounds."

Another Harbour Centre setback would lead to a disappointing exit for this promising new team that had lost only twice in the eliminations.

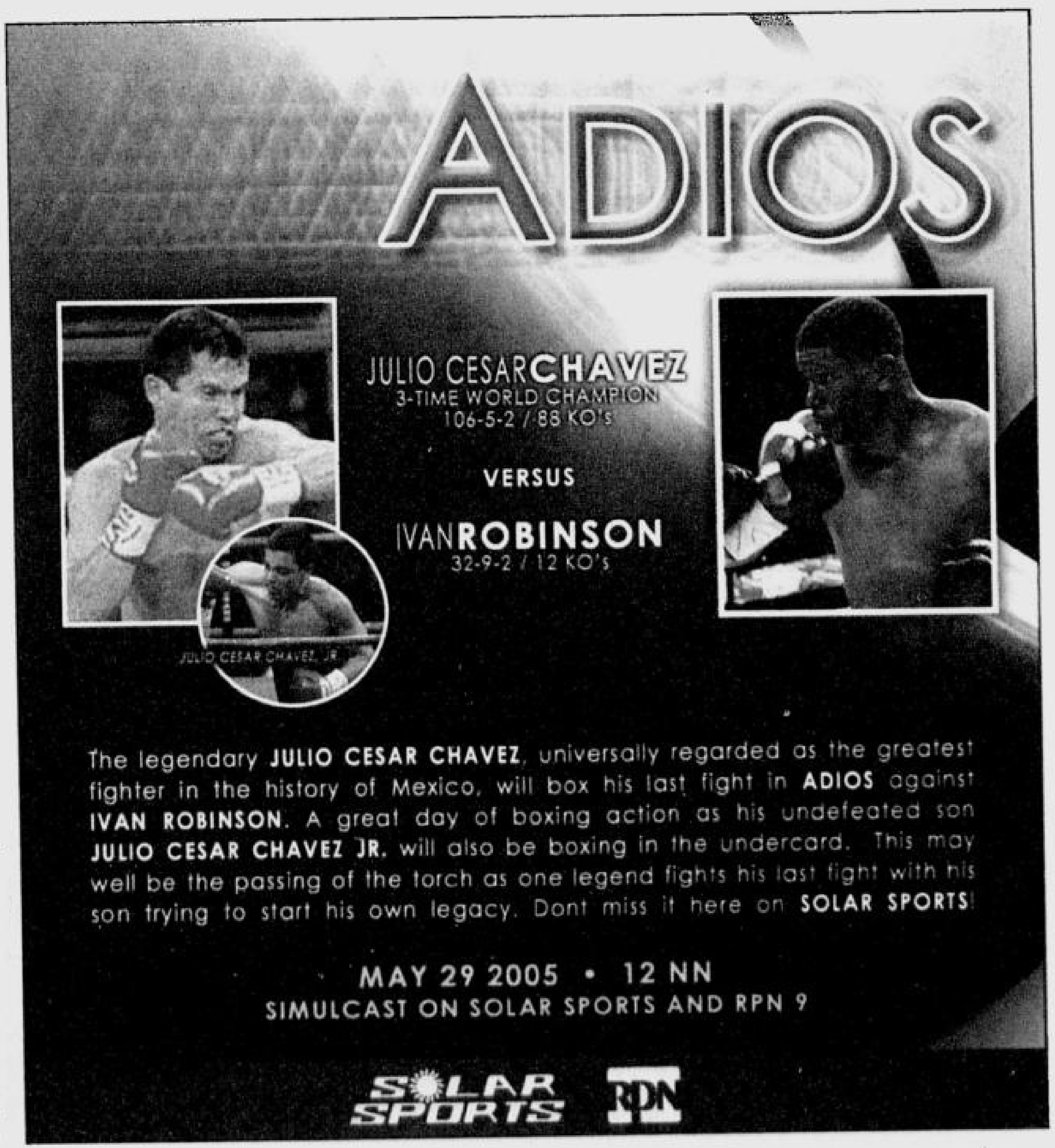
The Portmasters even had a chance to gain outright entry to the semifinals, but fell to Welcoat in overtime, 92-87, in their Tuesday playoff.

But expect them to still count heavily on Cardona, who averages 22.9 points, assist-leader LA Tenorio, Gabby Espinas and Jenkins Mesina.

Granny Goose, though, has shown that it can pull stirring upsets since beating heavyweights Montaña and Welcoat in the regular round with JR Quiñahan, Chico Lanete, Jett Latonio and Aby Santos at the helm. *Jasmine W. Payo*

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

CHRISTIAN Coronel of Toyota Otis drives past Joel Co of Magnolia in the game Thursday.



The legendary **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**, universally regarded as the greatest fighter in the history of Mexico, will box his last fight in **ADIOS** against **IVAN ROBINSON**. A great day of boxing action as his undefeated son **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.** will also be boxing in the undercard. This may well be the passing of the torch as one legend fights his last fight with his son trying to start his own legacy. Dont miss it here on **SOLAR SPORTS!**

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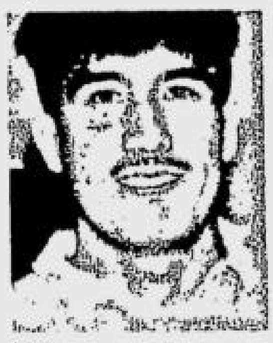
SOLAR SPORTS RPN

Once more with feeling: PBA 'greats' turn back hands of time tonight

JAWORSKI PDI PHOTO

DALUPAN PDI PHOTO

CO PDI PHOTO



LIM

GOV. ARNOLD Schwarzenegger played killjoy when he took Francis Arnaiz out of today's Greatest Game by giving the former Toyota team star a major appointment in his California office.

But boundless joy is in store for cage devotees today when the Robert Jaworski-coached TM Greats give coach Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan's Legends a run for their money at the Araneta Coliseum.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala and Dalupan yesterday assured basketball fans a very memorable and enjoyable evening when the two teams battle each other at 7:30 p.m. in today's "Greatest Game" to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the pro-league.

"Arnaiz begged off at the last minute because of a new appointment given him by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for whom he has been working," Eala told his audience during yesterday's SCOOP sa Kamayan.

"Danny Florencio, on the other hand, said he is suffering from gout. *Sayang, kasi* they have already been issued their tickets and ready to fly to Manila."

"But I don't think the absence of the two will diminish the Greats' strength," the PBA commissioner added. "I saw the team practice last Monday and it is still very competitive.

"Sonny (Jaworski) besides calling the shots on the bench also promised to play and so is Mon (Fernandez), who arrived from Cebu today."

Dalupan, now 82, predicted today's duel could turn out to be more exciting than the Crispa-Toyota game two years ago, where the former Tamaraws, handled by Dante Silverio and starring Jaworski and Fernandez, upended the Redmanizers of Atoy Co and Philip Cezar.

Dalupan, who has had ample time to prepare his squad, said the Greats have an advantage in quickness having the still-active Johnny Abarrientos, acknowledged as the finest point guard today, and Kenneth Duremdes in the lineup.

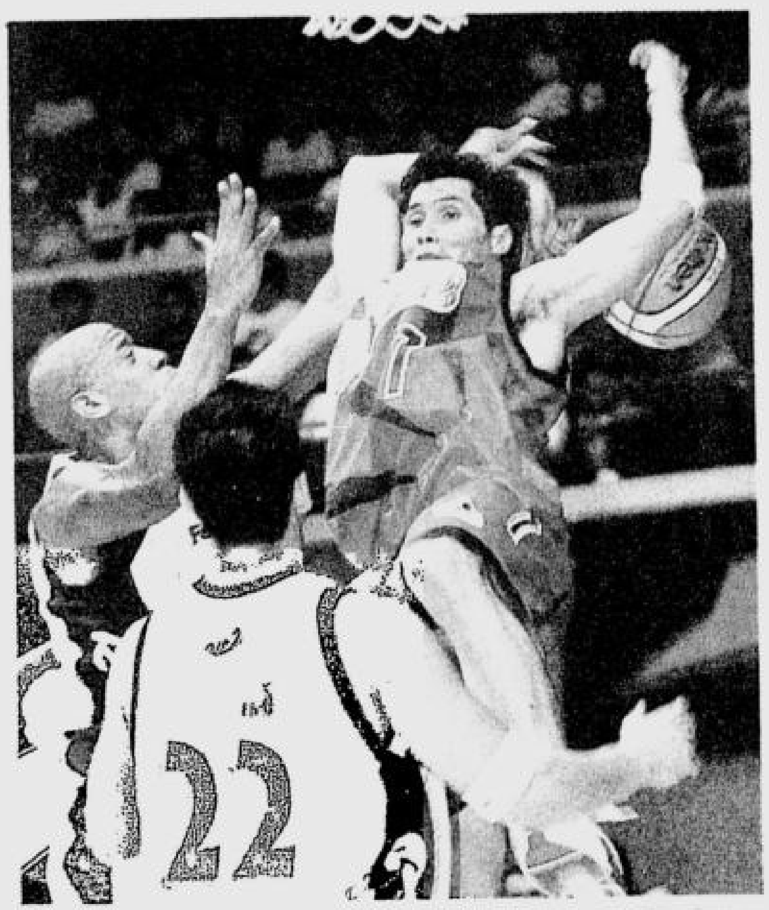
But he quickly added that the Legends could offset this in shooting with retired triggerman Allan Caidic, Bogs Adornado, Co, Alvin Patrimonio and Freddie Hubalde at the forefront of his team's offensive rotation.

"*Sabi ko nga sa kanila, mag-*shoot *na sila nang mag-*shoot, *pero kailangan pumasok dahil kapag hindi, tatanggalin ko sila sa loob*, (I've told them to shoot and shoot, but they must convert or they would be taken out)," quipped Dalupan, the country's winningest coach with 53 championships.

With Patrimonio, who was also at the session, and Jerry Codiñera manning the slot, the Legends also appear to have an edge at the paint.

Incidentally, eight in Dalupan's 10-man roster had, at one time, played under the "Maestro." They are Co, Cezar, Adornado and Hubalde at Crispa, Caidic at Great Taste and Patrimonio, Codiñera and Jojo Lastimosa at Purefoods. All had tasted title victories under Dalupan's tutelage.

The withdrawal of Arnaiz and Florencio reduced to only 10 Jaworski's lineup, which includes, besides Fernandez, Abarrientos and Duremdes, Samboy Lim, who was also at the session, Ato Agustin, Benjie Paras, Ronnie Magsanoc, Manny Paner and Lim Eng Beng.



SAN MIGUEL Beer's Dondon Hontiveros is fouled on the drive by FedEx's Anthony Miller in the game last night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Pals nip Kings, grab outright semis berth

By June Navarro

WILLIE Miller buried a short stab off the glass and lifted Talk 'N Text to a pulsating 101-100 victory over Barangay Ginebra and gave the Phone Pals an outright semifinal berth in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Miller's basket off Rodney Santos and Mark Caguioa gave Talk 'N Text the No. 1 slot in the tournament with its 12th win in 18 games.

San Miguel and Alaska, which ended up tied at 11-7, will dispute the second outright berth.

The Beermen notched their 11th victory behind the heroics of new acquisition Francis Adriano in the first game, routing the FedEx Express, 106-78.

Miller's basket came after Rodney Santos completed a three-point play that pushed the Phone Pals a point back, 99-100, 16 seconds remaining.

The Kings actually took the lead inside the final two minutes on four straight points by Andy Seigle, before Miller completed a three-point play that made it 99-97 in favor of the Phone Pals, 16 seconds remaining.

Ginebra dropped to 8-10 and tabbed the No. 7 slot, arranging a race-to-two affair against No. 6 Red Bull (9-9).

The loser of the San Miguel-Alaska playoff will fall to No. 3 and take on No. 10 Coca-Cola armed with the twice-to-beat advantage.

Sta. Lucia, with a 10-8 record, took the No. 4 slot and will face No. 9 Shell (7-11) also with a twice-to-beat edge.

FedEx dropped to No. 5 with a 9-9 slate and will challenge No. 8 Purefoods (7-11) in a best-of-three series.

Signed up the other day, Adriano scored 10 points off the bench, to lift the Beermen.

The Scores:

First Game

SAN MIGUEL 106—Peña 27, Hontiveros 21, Ildefonso 15, Adriano 10, Racela 10, Belasco 10, Smith 6, Mente 4, Lopez 3.

FEDEX 78—Miller 15, Ritualo 15, David 12, Gonzales 10, Ferriols 9, Arboleda 8, Billones 3, De Ocampo 2, Pingris 2, Victolero 2, Dacia 0, Bravo 0, Codiñera 0.

Quarters: 15-16, 39-43, 81-66, 106-78

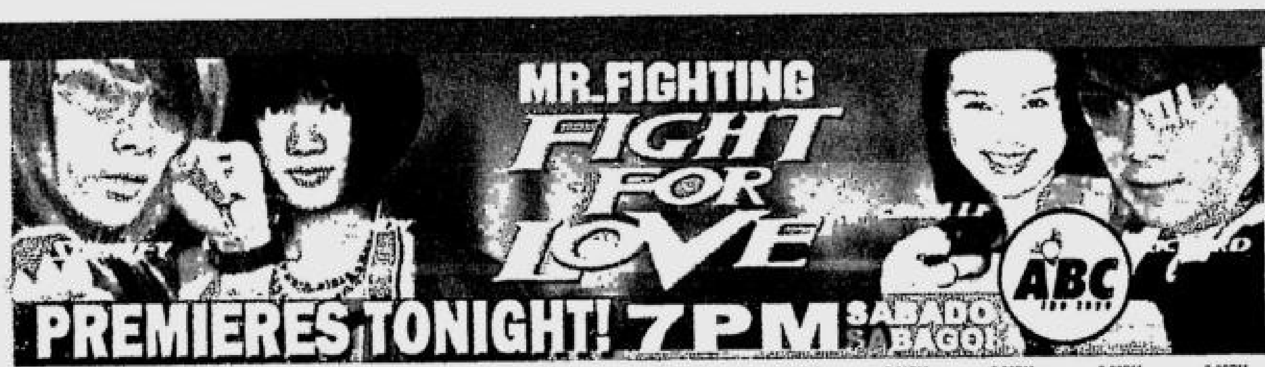
Second Game

TALK 'N TEXT 101—Honeycutt 26, Miller 18, Telan 18, Alapag 15, Pablo 10, Belano 7, Ravena 3, Carey 2, De Ocampo 2, Fran 0, Camaso 0.

GINEBRA 100—Caguioa 25, Santos 19, Adducul 18, Fuller 17, Seigle 8, Echavez 7, Salvacion 6, Dimaunahan 0, Noble 0.

Quarters: 32-21, 56-46, 81-77, 101-100.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE Saturday, May 28, 2005



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ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek				Kaya Mo Ba 'To		Ngiñig: The Hidden Files		Star Dance		Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	Magandang Gabi Bayan		Star Cinema Presents			Kontrobersyal (11:45PM)
ABC 5	Trip Ko 'To	The Basketball Show		Soccer Showdown		Loren		Diretsahan		Viva Box Office				Sing Galing		Maverick & Ariel	Onstage		
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos		Extra Challenge		Imbestigador		Idol Ko Si Kap			Showbiz Stripped	
RPN 9		Global Window		Byaheng Langit	Kids TV	Hanapbuhay Overseas		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse				Money Talk	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network			Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Lifestyle		Tiger Sluns				Bitag		In This Corner		Alamin Ang Diabetes	
JackTV		Worst Case Scenario		Chest	Filter	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				Drawn Together	The Man Show	Primetime Glick	Beat The Geeks
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Snick: Unfabulous (Now)/All Grown Up/ My Dad The Rock Star/ Drake & Josh				Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Presents		Top Of The Pops	MYX Remakes	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Club MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		MYX Live!	
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Who Wants To Marry My Dad 2		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One	Beautiful Life				Sabel				My Movie				Bilibid Or Not				Strebel Gestapo Ng Maynila		
Studio 23				PBL Game 2				Sports TV	Mr. Bean	7th Heaven	Gilmore Girls (7:45PM)		The Bachelor (8:40PM)		Studio 23 Present				Real Deal
AXN									E Buzz	30 Seconds To Fame		Ripley's Believe It or Not		CSI: NY (Season I)					
Star World		Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Miami Vice		Monk		Roswell		Enterprise		TNA Xplosion		Wow! The Most Awesome Acts On Earth I/Saturday Shockumentaries		Dog The Bounty Hunter	Cops	The Kumars At No. 42	Arrested Development
CNN	Diplomatic License	World News	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	CNN Business Traveler	World News	Design 360	World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart: Global Edition	CNN Presents: A Rising Tide: The Threat Of Global Warming	
National Geographic		Big Bite Nite				Big Cat Challenge		Creature Feature				Be The Creature		The Snake Wranglers	Wildlife Diary	Big Bite Nite			
Solar Sports				Kaiv Magazine	WTA '05 Pacific Life Open Indian Wells, USA						Greatest Classics				NBA Eastern Conf. Finals Game2				
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Cafe Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Modern Girl's Guide	El True Hollywood Story		Look For Less	Behind The Velvet Ropes
HBO		She's In Love (3:15PM)				The Juror				Bad Boys				Secondhand Lions				Six Feet Under 49: The Black Forest (10:50PM)	S.W.A.T (11:40PM)
Star Movies		Opening Night: Madagascar	Double Impact			Kung Phooey (5:15PM)			Windtalkers (6:45PM)					Cold Creek Manor				Jeepers Creepers 2 (10:55PM)	
Cartoon Network		The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Swat Kats	Duck Dodgers	Xiaolin Showdown	Winx Club	Atomic Betty	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Teen Titans	The Quest For Camelot			Cartoon Cartoon Show	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Duck Dodgers	Codename: Kids Next Door	Samurai Jack	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
Disney Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Sabrina: The Animated Series	The Legend Of Tarzan	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Phil Of The Future	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			Dave The Barbarian	Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax				Deadly Swarm			Singles			Hideaway (7:15PM)				The Sum Of All Fears				Who's Your Daddy?	
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Elvis Meets Nixon				Scar Tissue				The Hollywood Mom's Mystery				Plainsong			Midsomer Murders: Ring Out Your Dead		
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Science Frontiers		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery				Rides		Mummy Autopsy		Extreme Discovery	
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Kris Aquino visits and roots for James Yap

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

Fiba-Asia secretary general Yeoh Choo Hock, now in Manila to attend the opening of the Fiba-Asia Champion's Cup, reportedly met with Patafa president Go Teng Kok at an undisclosed place yesterday.

While we all knew what the main topic of the meeting was going to be, we are held in suspense as to what Dato Yeoh will have to say regarding the suspension of the BAP by the POC.

The big question of course is: Will Fiba-Asia, under the leadership of president Sheikh Saud Bin Ali Althani, continue to recognize the suspended BAP as the basketball governing body of the Philippines?

A veteran colleague posed that question to Dato Yeoh the other day via an overseas phone call, even before he could get to Manila.

The scribe got politely brushed off.

Dato Yeoh said that, while he is here in Manila, he will concentrate on the event and finish it, before he goes to the big problem.

But Yeoh did say something about a solution being the best present for the Filipinos. "I couldn't figure out what he was trying to say," said the scribe.

Well I hope Yeoh and Sheikh Saud have the Solomonic wisdom to find an acceptable resolution (for all) to the chaos currently plaguing Philippine basketball.

As to the meeting yesterday between the Dato and GTK, my friend says he thinks noting really big would be accomplished by the talks.

"Pustahan tayo, pagbabatiin lang niyan si GTK at si Graham Lim (BAP secretary general) *na pareho niyang kababayan,"* he said.

Personally, I would consider it a big accomplishment if Dato Yeoh succeeds in getting the two to smoke the peace pipe.

* * *

I got hold of a letter sent by lawyer Paul Gueco of Talk 'N Text to PBA Commissioner Noli Eala who was being asked to explain why rival brand Touch Mobile was tapped to sponsor an event in the PBA's 30th anniversary celebration.

Bottomline, the Pangilinan franchise is demanding that Eala desist from pursuing the sponsorship of Touch Mobile.

"Should you fail to honor this demand, we shall institute the necessary legal action to protect the interest of the Talk 'N Text franchise and we shall hold you personally responsible for all the damages suffered by the TNT franchise as a result of your wanton and malicious disregard of the right of the Talk 'N Text franchise.

Whew! This on top of the contempt charges awaiting decision in the Quezon City regional trial court.

* * *

The Philippine Basketball League is moving to a new home soon.

According to PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad, the league has been given until June 8 by Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado to vacate their office at the Makati Coliseum which will be transformed to a cockfighting arena.

Reconstruction of the venue started yesterday, the day following the PBA doubleheader between Alaska and Purefoods in the first game and Coke and Shell in the second.

"We're still looking for a place to transfer," said Chino who was doing the rounds of prospects yesterday morning. "Meantime, we will be holding office in San Juan on a temporary basis. The games go on as scheduled."

* * *

Guess who was at the Pasig Gym yesterday afternoon to witness the action between the RP team and defending Fiba-Asia Champions Cup champion Al Rayyan of Qatar?

Kris Aquino, that's who. My tipster said she was there to root for James Yap, even if it was only a practice game.

As of press time, she was still there, long after the game had been concluded.

"She was obviously waiting for James," said my informer.

Al Rayyan won by 7 points, 92-85.

"We could've beaten them if not for their imports," said RP coach Chot Reyes.

Farrales, G'zales forge title clash

Ilagan stuns Papa to book semis slot

By Jong Arcano

GEN. TRIAS, Cavite—Leana Farrales canned a pressure-packed four-foot putt for par on the 18th to secure a 1-up victory over top seed Vinice Godio yesterday and arrange a showdown with Katrina Gonzales for the ladies title in the inaugural National Tournament of Club Champions at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club course here.

The fifth-ranked Farrales, the Globe executive representing Wack Wack, made the putt after watching Alabang bet Godio flub a birdie try from almost the same distance on the last hole of the Norman course that could have extended the match.

Riviera's Gonzales gave no room to 15-year-old Kathleen Uy of Cebu Country Club on the way to a 4-and-2 win. She capped the victory with a birdie on the 16th hole to earn her expected place in the finals of the tournament presented by Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC) and INQUIRER Golf.

Farrales and Gonzales dispute an all-expense paid trip to the HSBC World Ladies Match Play in New Jersey in June, with the loser settling for an Omega Limited Philippine edition watch.

Upsets rocked the men's division quarterfinals with Marty Ilagan of Manila Southwoods booting out No. 1 seed John Papa of The Country Club, 2-up.

But the day belonged to Kevin Tayao of Sta. Elena who made the shot of the day on the 18th to finally end the bid of Eagle Ridge bet Oh Kwang Taek.

Tayao, seeded 12th, hit a gap wedge approach to within four feet from a tough lie in the left rough 125 yards out, then sank the putt for a birdie that got him past Oh, 1-up, and into a semifinal showdown with Ilagan, a former national tennis player.

Raymund Sangil of Riviera goes up against Abe Avena of Mt. Malarayat in the other encounter.

Sangil used a birdie-riddled round to knock out No. 2 Iggy Clavecilla, 3-and-2, while Avena won four of the first five holes in the back nine to clinch a 5-and-4 win over Oliver Gan of Tagaytay Highlands.

Aside from Omega, the country's first-ever showdown of club champions is held in coordination with the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines, with Toyota Innova as the official vehicle, Philippine Airlines the official airline and Titleist the official ball.

The other sponsors are Print Town, Aviva Insurance, GG&A Club Shares, Mizuno, Nike Golf, Ayala Greenfield Estates, Coppertone Sport and Sunbolt Sports Drink.

The ladies final and the men's semifinals will be played at the Dye course, considered as one of the toughest courses in the country.

"It's really going to be a match play against the course for us," said Ilagan.

LEANA Farrales hits her second shot at No. 17. The Wack Wack champion ousted top seed Vinice Godio, 1-up. ROMY HOMILLADA

SSC, La Salle spikers dispute Shakey's lead

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs. Far Eastern
5 p.m.—San Sebastian vs. La Salle

SAN Sebastian and La Salle lock horns today with no less than the solo lead in the Shakey's V-League on the line at the Rizal Coliseum.

Gametime is 5 p.m. with both unbeatean teams trying to extend four-game winning runs.

Fresh off a five-set conquest of Ateneo on Thursday, surging San Sebastian rode the offense of Cherry Rose Macatangay to post its best start in the fledging league.

Meanwhile, Cecil Chavas, a former Far Eastern ace, has been the unsung hero for the Lady Stags.

While Macatangay peppered Ateneo with 32 kills Thursday, Chavas' 46 excellent set-plays almost went unnoticed.

The Lady Stags will be playing their second game in four days, while the Lady Archers, the reigning champs, are coming in fresh off a five-day break.

La Salle was relentless last week, scoring a 25-16, 25-20, 25-23 beating of Lyceum despite getting only five points from second conference MVP Michelle Carolino.

Newcomer Ateneo hopes to bounce back from its defeat to SSC when it battles Far Eastern in the first match at 3 p.m.

The Lady Eagles actually bungled a 2-1 sets lead and couldn't stop Macatangay from delivering the goods in the stretch as they dropped to 2-2 in the standings.

Odds are just about even in the Ateneo-FEU setto, even though the Lady Tamaraws chalked up their first win on Thursday, 25-23, 14-25, 25-14, 17-25, 15-12, over Lyceum.

Ateneo is again expected to bank on frontliners Michelle Laborte, Amelia Guanco, and Cecille Tabuena.

Karla Tricia V. Magno

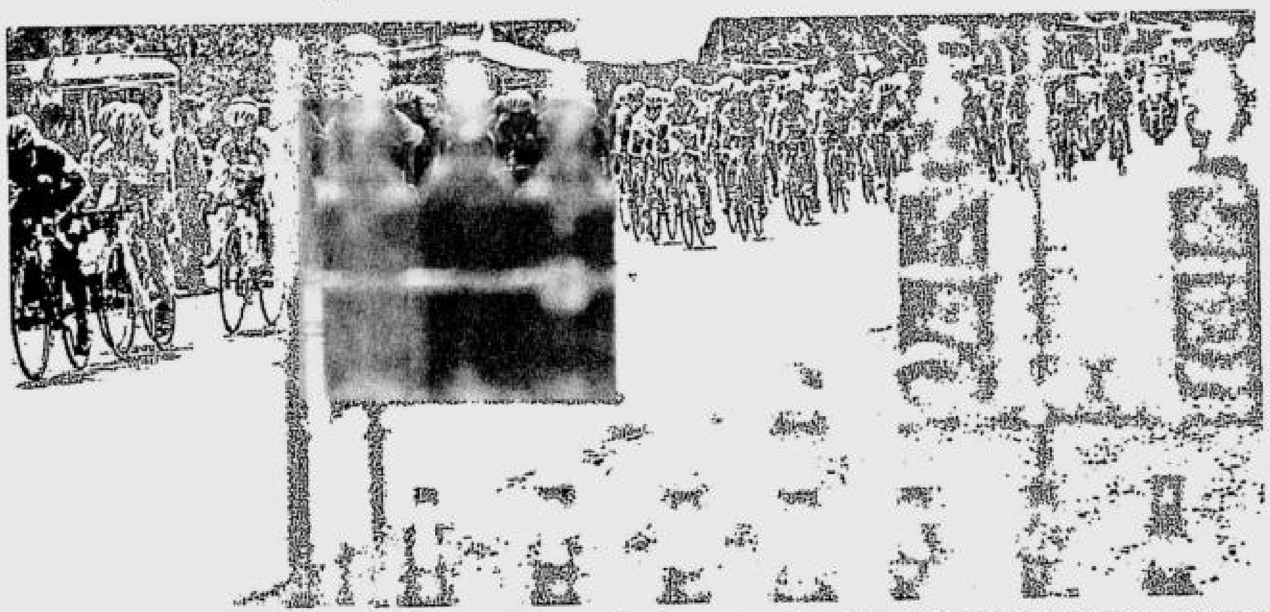
Road Warriors move up with four top 20 finishes

TAGAYTAY CITY—Four Guerrero Brandy riders finished in the Top 20 in the second lap of the Tanduay presents...Golden Tour 50@'05 from Lucena City to this city as the Road Warriors jumped from sixth to third in the team event.

Danny Ganigan checked in sixth for the lap, two minutes and 17 seconds behind winner Warren Davadilla of Colt 45 in the punishing 91.09-km ascent to put Guerrero in prime position for the team title.

From sixth after Thursday's initial stage, the Road Warriors moved within 2:30 minutes behind pace-setting sister team Colt 45, which has a time of 25 hours and 47.154 seconds.

Vergel Muena, a member of last year's champion team, and rookies Rodel Sambrano and Joel Dueñas overcame cramps when the main peloton hit the climb to Tagaytay and occupied 17th to 19th places.



ROADSIDE shelves of *lambanog* (coconut wine) in different colors frame the main peloton of riders in Sariaya, Quezon. BOY CABRIDO

STAGE 2 RESULTS

1. W. Davadilla, COLT 45, 2 hours 43 minutes 3 seconds
2. R. Tanguilig, PLDT, same
3. B. Benosa, Touch Mobile, 1 minute 55 seconds behind
4. S. Barnachea, Touch Mobile, 2:04 mins
5. F. Alagano, Metro Drug, 2:10
6. D. Ganigan, Guerrero Brandy, 2:17
7. B. Lopez JR., Metro Drug, 2:23
8. R. Pagala, PLDT, 2:34
9. J. Ricafort, Touch Mobile, 2:40
10. M. McQuin Aleonar, VAT Riders, 2:44
11. E. Atilano, Metro Drug, same
12. A. Quirimit, Tourism, same
13. E. Feliciano, VAT Riders, 3:02
14. J. Dasalla, Colt 45, same
15. R. Gorantes, Go 21, 3:11
16. E. Quinones, Custom, 3:23
17. V. Muena, Guerrero Brandy, same
18. R. Sambrano, Guerrero Brandy, 3:58
19. J. Duenas, Guerrero Brandy, same
20. E. Orpilla, Metro Drug, 4:10
21. M. Primero, Custom, 4:19
22. R. Hualda, Tourism, same
23. R. Navarro, Custom, 4:32
24. D. Perez, Colt 45, 4:39
25. J. Delica, VAT Riders, 5:16
26. A. Miranda, Metro Drug, 5:23
27. R. Villaver, PLDT, same
28. L. Mandi, PLDT. same
29. M. Reyes, Colt 45, same
30. E. Obosa, Go 21, same

OVERALL INDIVIDUAL RESULTS after Stage 2

1. W. Davadilla, Colt 45, 6 hours 11 minutes 21 seconds
2. R. Tanguilig, PLDT, 1 minute 51 seconds behind
3. A. Benosa, Touch Mobile, 2:00 mins
4. S. Barnachea, Touch Mobile, 2:04
5. F. Alagano, Metro Drug, 2:18
6. B. Lopez Jr., Metro Drug, 2:29
7. M. McQuin Aleonar, VAT Riders, 2:54
8. E. Quinones, Custom, 3:33
9. D. Ganigan, Guerrero Brandy, 4:14
10. M. Primero, Custom, 4:29
11. R. Pagala, PLDT, 4:32
12. J. Ricafort, Touch Mobile, 4:37
13. A. Quirimit, Tourism, 4:42
14. R. Navarro, Custom, same
15. E. Feliciano, VAT Riders, 4:59
16. J. Dasalla, Colt 45, same
17. R. Gorantes, GO 21, 5:08
18. V. Muena, Guerrero Brandy, 5:20
19. E. Obosa, GO 21, 5:33
20. M. Reyes, Colt 45, same
21. O. Rundole, Tourism, 5:54
22. J. Duenas, Guerrero Brandy, 5:55
23. R. Sambrano, Guerrero Brandy, same
24. J. Garillo, Tourism, 5:59
25. E. Orpilla, Metro Drug, 6:07

OVERALL TEAM STANDINGS:

1. Colt 45 25 hours, 47.154 seconds
2. Metro Drug 25:1:02.625, (15.471 seconds behind)
3. Guerrero Brandy 25:03:17.555 (2:30.400 mins)
4. Tourism 25:04:42.355 (3:55.201)
5. Custom 25:05:22.745 (4:35.590)
6. PLDT 25:06:29.087 (5:41.933)
7. Touch Mobile 25:06:38.664 (5:51.51)
8. VAT Riders 25:08:15.069 (7:27.915)
9. GO 21 25:10:22.735 (9:35.580)

4-6 March 2005
Suntec Singapore Exhibition Hall 404
1-3 April 2005
Hanggar Billiard & Recreation Center
29 April-1 May 2005
Kaohsiung Business Exhibition Center
3-5 June 2005
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Safin still hounded by 'curse'

PARIS—Marat Safin must think he's cursed at the French Open.

Last year it was blisters on both hands. On Thursday, tendinitis in his left knee prompted him to call a trainer twice in the first set before he limped and hobbled past Czech qualifier Lukas Dlouhy, 6-7 (6), 6-3, 7-5, 6-1.

"My knee bothers me more and more," Safin said. "It really hurts, especially when I serve. I cannot put the weight on one leg, the left one."

The pain hit him particularly hard at 5-5 in the opening set. The tall Russian, seeded third, jumped for a routine smash he could easily have converted standing.

After landing awkwardly, he stood motionless for a few seconds, leaning forward with his hands on his thighs as the crowd on Court No. 1 clapped and cheered for the reigning Australian Open champion to continue.

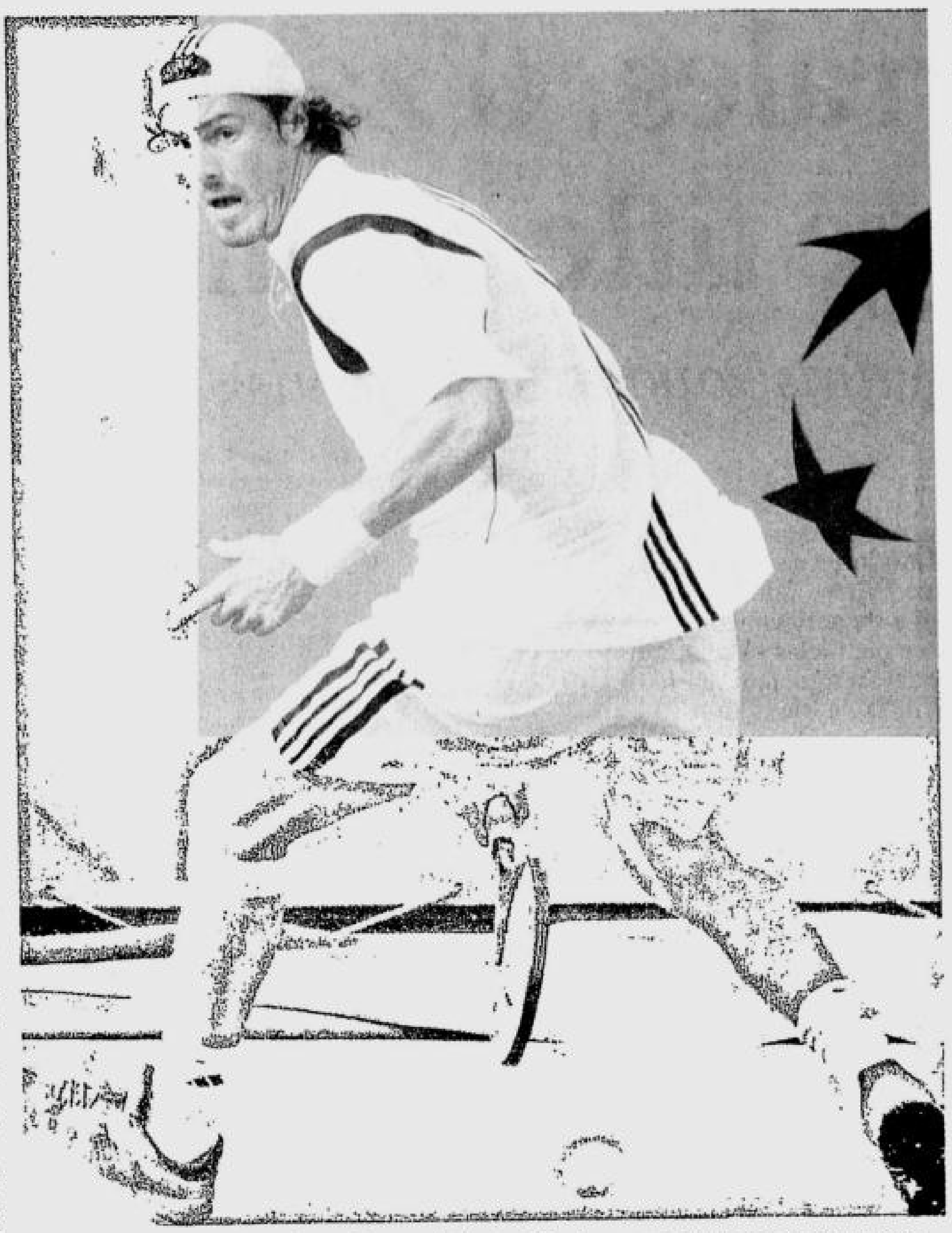
At the changeover, Safin received a massage from the trainer. He'd already received treatment four games earlier.

His next match, against 2003 French Open champ Juan Carlos Ferrero, is likely to test the knee even more.

"I'll get a treatment (Friday) morning, afternoon, take some pills, some painkillers, and try and go out and play against Ferrero. I will see," he said.

Safin is willing to brave the pain against Ferrero—and even sacrifice Wimbledon—to chase his goal of adding the French Open to his US and Australian Open titles.

"I will definitely come out on the court and play against him," he said. *AP*



MARAT Safin, playing in pain, performs a little stunt for the crowd, hitting the ball between his legs in an attempt to return to Czech foe Lukas Dlouhy during their second-round match in the French Open. AP

FRENCH OPEN

Roddick cr
Sharapova

PARIS—Andy Roddick failed to make it through the opening week at the French Open for the fifth time in as many tries, blowing a two-set advantage Thursday and a fifth-set lead against Argentine Jose Acasuso.

Roddick was broken twice after going ahead 3-1 in the last set and lost, 3-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 8-6.

"I thought I had the better of him for the better part of three sets," Roddick said. "Unfortunately, the better part of three sets and three sets is something different."

Roddick's career record at Roland Garros fell to 4-5. His best showing was his first appearance in 2001, when he reached the third round.

The quintessential clay-court marathon began in 30-degree C sunshine and ended 3 hours, 21 minutes later on a cloudy but muggy evening. Both weary players required leg massages from a trainer during fifth-set changeovers, Acasuso to his left thigh and Roddick to both calves.

Roddick tried curious tactics on match point, standing 10 feet behind the baseline to receive serve and then hitting two moonball backhands. The second landed short, and Acasuso slammed a forehand winner.

Was Roddick attempting to lure Acasuso into going for too much?

"Maybe I was trying to get him to pull the trigger," Roddick said. "I didn't get all of one and hit it short, and that was it."

ANDY Roddick suffers another

When Acasuso delivered th
blow, he sank to the court on his
haustion and jubilation. Roddi
over the net to shake hands.

"It's a five-set match," Acasuso
made the most of it."

For the second year in a row
the second time at a Grand Sla
more than 30 years—no Am
made it out of the second ro
Blake and Vince Spadea also lost

"It stinks," Roddick said. "I do
of us are happy. We all have a
and it has gotten taken down a l

Sorenstam stalks Corning leaders

CORNING, New York—Defending champion Annika Sorenstam opened with a 3-under 69 before Sherri Turner shot 66 to tie Sophie Gustafson for the first-round lead of the Corning Classic on Thursday.

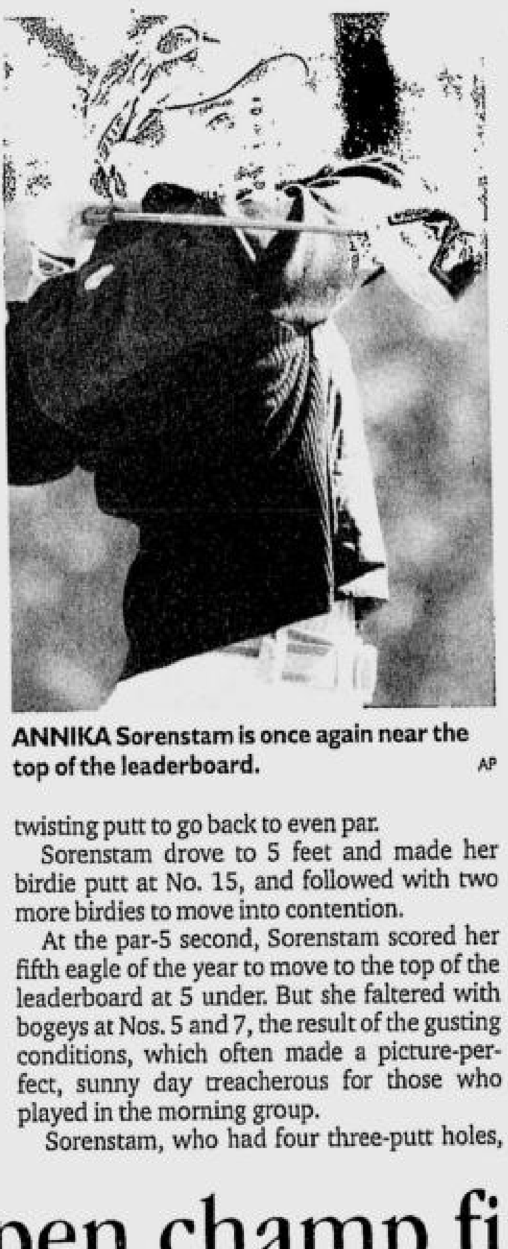
"It was tricky out there with the wind swirling constantly," Sorenstam said. "It's tough to judge, especially when the greens are so small. It makes a big difference if you don't pick the right club. That's what happened to me on the first hole. If you don't have the right club, you end up on the wrong side of the pin and you can have some unmakeable putts, and I had them."

Turner played in one of the final threesomes of the day in much-improved conditions, and started quickly, making eagle on the par-5 second hole, and carding three more birdies before the turn. She finished with her first round in the 60s this year to tie Gustafson, who closed with five birdies over her final seven holes on the way to her best round of the season.

Sorenstam was tied for third with 1986 Corning winner Laurie Rinker, Catherine Cartwright, Jamie Hullett, Mee Lee, and South Korea's Jimin Kang.

Two weeks after dominating the Chick-fil-A Charity Championship, in which she played the first 39 holes of the tournament without a bogey, things changed quickly for Sorenstam. She started with a bogey at No. 10, then had another at the 13th to fall behind her playing partners, two-time Corning winner Rosie Jones and Christina Kim.

Sorenstam then got going, starting with an impressive eagle at the 510-yard, par-5 No. 14. She hit a 4-wood to within 7 feet of the pin to become the first player in the tournament's 27-year history to make the elevated green on the second shot. She then calmly made the short, twisting putt to go back to even par.



ANNIKA Sorenstam is once again near the top of the leaderboard. AP

Sorenstam drove to 5 feet and made her birdie putt at No. 15, and followed with two more birdies to move into contention.

At the par-5 second, Sorenstam scored her fifth eagle of the year to move to the top of the leaderboard at 5 under. But she faltered with bogeys at Nos. 5 and 7, the result of the gusting conditions, which often made a picture-perfect, sunny day treacherous for those who played in the morning group.

Sorenstam, who had four three-putt holes, finished her round with three straight pars, and they came when the wind seemed its stiffest.

"On my last hole I thought I was totally downwind, and by the time I'm going to hit it's into the wind, and by the time I get to the green it's left to right," she said, shaking her head. "I could have used three different clubs. You had to time it pretty well. It makes it difficult."

Gustafson missed the cut two weeks ago at the Chick-fil-A Charity Championship, which Sorenstam dominated for her 60th career victory, and her only round in the 60s this year came a month ago on the first round of the Takefuji Classic.

On this day, even a tricky wind that often befuddled Sorenstam didn't seem to have as much of an effect on Gustafson. She tied her fellow Swede with an 8-foot birdie putt at the par-4 13th hole, the most difficult on the short and narrow Corning Country Club course.

Gustafson followed with three straight birdies, capping her impressive string with a 10-foot putt at 17.

"You've got to be aggressive here," said Gustafson, who needed only 24 putts on the round, seven fewer than Sorenstam. "I had a couple of bogeys where I wasn't really sure where the wind was coming from."

The wind wasn't as bad for those who teed off in the afternoon. Barring a total collapse on Friday, Turner, the 1988 Corning champion, was virtually assured of making only her second cut in five tournaments. Her best finish this season is a tie for 51st in last week's Sybase Classic.

Tessa Teachman, a 15-year-old American, the youngest player to ever qualify at Corning, shot a 1-over 73 and was in contention to make the cut. *AP*

Indy's 'Ice Princess
critics: Car can't te

SACRAMENTO, California—Before this, her first season in Indy cars, Danica Patrick seemed all girlish giggles, happy competing in the minor leagues of motor sports.

Upon her promotion to the elite Indy Racing League, she created her own Top 10 list, in honor of her new boss and car owner, talk show host David Letterman:

"No. 1, the best thing about being Danica is I get to go really, really fast."

And just days before the biggest race of her young career, she appeared completely at ease on Letterman's late-night show, exchanging good-natured jabs.

But on the racetrack, she's no joke. Set Sunday to become the fourth woman to drive in motor sports' glamour event, the Indianapolis 500, Patrick earned her on-track nickname, "The Ice Princess," for a chilly intensity that has her set on winning.

And with a fast car, a solid team and great qualifying times, Patrick just might do it.

"What's so hard about 227 miles per hour?" she asked after posting a qualifying speed of 227.004 mph. "The faster you go, the easier it gets."

Patrick will start fourth in Sunday's field of 33. A little wiggle going into a turn cost her the first position on the starting line, but her quick recovery earned her more respect. Driving the No. 16 car for Rahal Letterman Racing, the 23-year-old rookie appears poised to make Indy history.

"In 89 years, only four women have come through (and qualified for the Indy 500)," Patrick noted. "We can remember the names of every woman; who can remember every guy? But everybody remembers the winners. That's why I want to win."

Coupled with her photogenic looks, her success in qualifying has made Patrick the story coming into the race. The 5-foot-2 dynamo has met every challenge.

"I actually think all the distractions are good. It keeps me hungry, keeps me fiery. It sure helps when the fans are cheering for you. I want to be a good entertain
them."

OF THE 33 drivers preparing to
no one commands as much atte
as the charming Danica Patrick.

It also helps that her well-fun
won the 2004 Indy 500 with Bu
who will miss this race with a b
suffered in a crash this month. R
with teammates Vitor Meira and 1
500 winner Kenny Brack, offer he

So does team co-owner Bobb
the 1986 Indy 500 winner who
pleased by her rapid progress.

"The whole thing for us would
add to the pressure she's already
feel," Rahal said.

As the lone woman in the fiel
has heard more questions abou
than she can count. Her pat answ
rowed from Lyn St. James—th
woman to drive in the race:
doesn't know the difference."

In a sport in which a small
means more weight can go int
her petiteness may be an advanta

"I'm closer to the steering
she said. "And I've been tol

Ex-British Open champ finds old form

VIRGINIA WATER, England—Ben Curtis has had nothing but frustration on the US Tour this year.

On Thursday, in the country of his greatest success, the 2003 British Open champion had a round he has not been able to produce at home in the past four months.

His 4-under 68, capped by an eagle three at the 18th, in the first round of the BMW Championship left him one shot off the lead.

Curtis' run at home had included eight missed cuts in succession, and nine in 11 US Tour events.

"It was everything really, especially the driver," Curtis said Thursday.

Curtis' rut began in the fifth round of the Bob Hope Classic, where he was well placed until he shot a 74.

"Since the Hope, it just went downhill and gradually got worse and worse," he said. "I was working hard but I think I was working on the wrong things. It just got more and more frustrating but the last three or four weeks have been a lot better.

"I think every pro goes through it at one time in their career when they struggle. I'm not setting any goals. I'm just going out and trying to get better, and if that means I finish 40th, so be it.

"It's better than not playing at all."

Colin Montgomerie knows what it's like to be in a slump.

The 41-year-old Scot, who won this tournament from 1998-2000 when it was called the British PGA Championship, is equal 35th after he shot a 1-under 71 in the first round.

"I was more confident then, more confident on the course than I am now," Montgomerie said. "I knew I was going to win somehow." *AP*

Carlsberg
Reebok

LIVERPOOL players (left to right) Jamie Carragher, Luis Garcia, Vladimir Smicer, Milan Baros, Steven Gerrard and John Arne Riise hold up the Champion's League trophy. AFP

Liverpool parade draws more than half

LIVERPOOL, England—More than half a million fans jammed the streets and squares of Liverpool on Thursday evening to welcome their soccer team home after its dramatic victory in Europe's showpiece competition.

Cheering crowds estimated by police at 750,000 came out for a parade celebrating Liverpool's penalty-shoot-out win over AC Milan in the Champions League final Wednesday night in Istanbul, Turkey, the storied club's fifth European title and first in 21 years.

Manager Rafa Benitez, captain Steven Gerrard and the rest of the team traveled through the city with the trophy in an open-topped, double-decker bus. Fans wearing the club's red colors perched from lamp posts, traffic lights, balconies and rooftops to get a better view, and sang the team's anthem, "You'll Never Walk Alone."

"Seeing these smiling faces is the greatest pleasure," Benitez said. "They have been magnificent all season. They have been our 12th man and behaved perfectly in Istanbul. I have always said our fans are the best in England. Now I know they are the best in Europe, too."

The bus, led by 20 mounted police officers, was adorned with a huge banner depicting the club's five European trophies. It took more than two hours for the bus to wind its way through the huge crowds, stopping briefly at the club's Anfield stadium and concluding the parade at St. George's Hall, where an estimated 300,000 people were waiting.

"I said we would bring the cup back for these fans, and now we have done it," Gerrard said.

Earlier, Gerrard and Benitez had carried
huge silver cup together as they got off the pla
at John Lennon Airport following the fli
home from Turkey.

Down 3-0 at halftime, Liverpool scored th
quick goals early in the second half and beat
Milan, 3-2, on penalties for its first title in
rope's top club competition since 1984. As fi
time champion, Liverpool gets to keep the
phy for good.

"Unbelievable. Incredible. Brilliant. T
whole country is very proud of you," Prime M
ister Tony Blair said in a message to Benitez
his players.

Queen Elizabeth II learned of the result bef
returning from an official visit to Canada.

"Congratulations on your remarkable win l

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ashes out in upset; , Mauresmo advance

early French exit. AP

knockout
back in ex-
k climbed

said. "And I

—and only
m event in
rican men
nd. James
Thursday.
't think any
ot of pride,
t in the last

couple of years here."

Justine Henin-Hardenne's latest ailment failed to slow her down. The tournament favorite and 2003 champion required treatment for a back injury that bothered her serve, yet she still advanced to the third round by beating Virginia Ruano Pascual, 6-1, 6-4.

After taking a 5-0 lead, Henin-Hardenne requested treatment during the changeover and grimaced as she stretched her back with help from a trainer. Henin-Hardenne said the previously undisclosed injury involves a nerve, dates back at least six weeks and isn't serious.

"I'm going to be fine for the next few days," she said. "I just wanted to be sure it wasn't going to be more serious. That's why I asked for the trainer. It was bothering me only on my serve."

Henin-Hardenne hit eight double faults and has 17 in two matches. She made only 45 percent of her first serves and was broken three times in the second set.

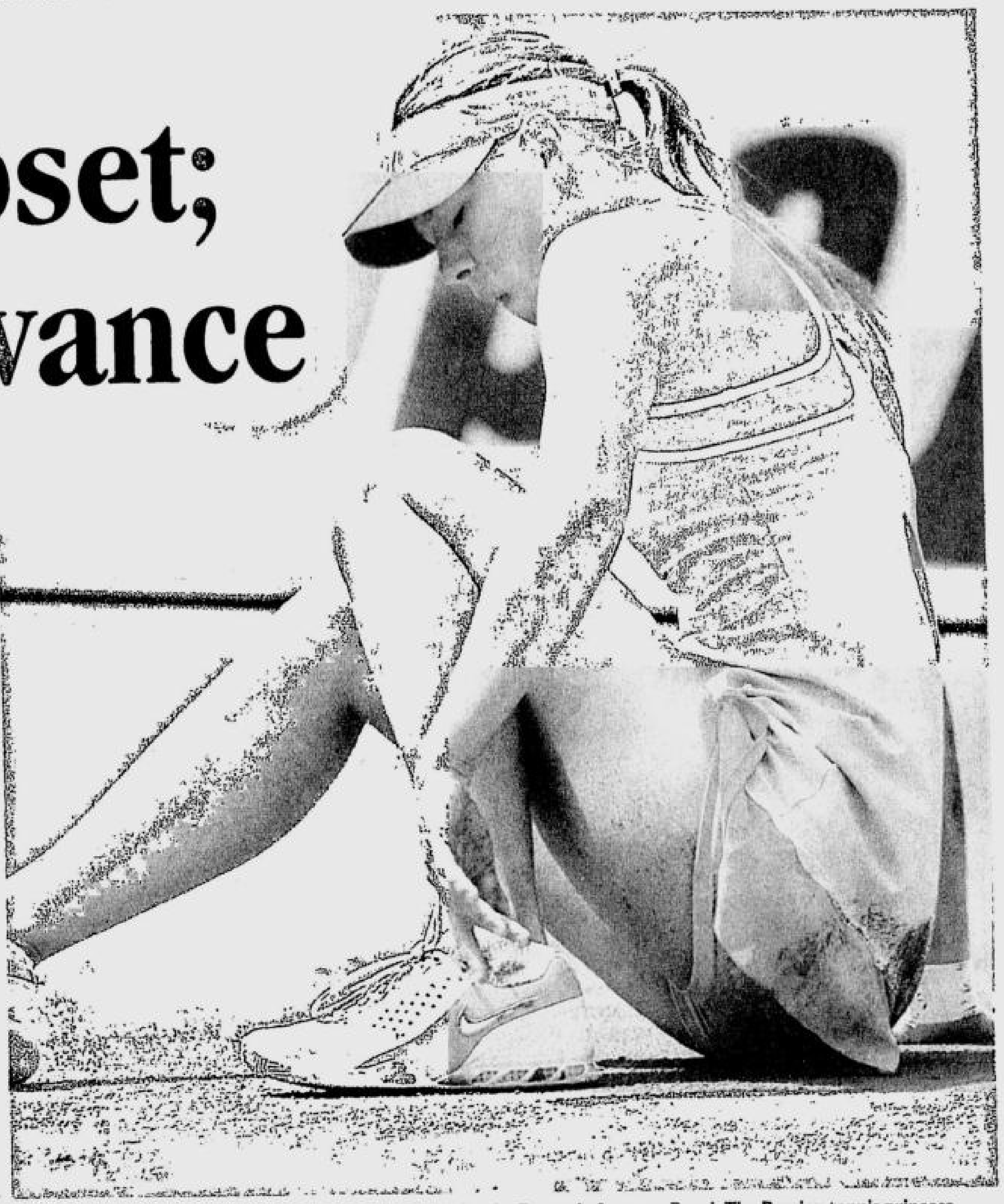
The injury is the latest in a series of ailments for Henin-Hardenne, who returned in March from a seven-month layoff due to a blood virus and knee injury. Despite rust, back pain and concerns about her stamina, she's 22-1 since returning and has won 19 consecutive matches, all on clay.

Henin-Hardenne's lone loss this year was at Key Biscayne to Maria Sharapova, a potential opponent in the quarterfinals.

Sharapova, seeded second, committed just 13 unforced errors and beat 18-year-old Frenchwoman Aravane Rezai, 6-3, 6-2. Third-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France defeated 15-year-old compatriot Alize Cornet 6-0, 6-2.

No. 8 Guillermo Coria, the 2004 runner-up, won when 18-year-old qualifier Novak Djokovic retired with respiratory trouble trailing, 4-6, 6-2, 3-2. Djokovic said a sinus problem has bothered him for about a year.

Spadea quit because of a strained stomach muscle trailing No. 21-seeded Tommy Haas, 6-4, 6-3. Spadea estimated he'll be sidelined four to six weeks, which could force him to miss Wimbledon. *AP*



MARIA Sharapova falls to the ground after chasing a shot by France's Aravane Rezai. The Russian tennis princess advances to the next round and is on a collision course with former No. 1 Justine Henin-Hardenne. AFP

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"It's fun that the attention is on her," said Indy 500 pole-sitter Tony Kanaan, the defending IRL champion. "She's a fast female and doing real good. If people are watching her, they're watching us. But I don't care if she's male or female. My job is to beat her."

Said Patrick: "I get attention because I'm so different. I've been told for a long time that I just had to do OK, race near the front, and the fans and media would come. But this is something our sport can really feed off."

Patrick appreciates the ground other women broke at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. "For Janet (Guthrie), being the very first [in 1977], the things she experienced . . . things like people saying, 'Why aren't you home cooking?' For me, it's very different. I have tons of support."

The hardest part of this first Indy experience?

"Accepting fourth in qualifying," she said. "As strange as that sounds, I was mad. I knew I could go faster. I did [229.880 mph in practice]. To me, I felt like I had [the pole position] in my hand, and it slipped out."

The best part?

"Every time I go on the track, the crowd is cheering so hard."

More relaxed this week as she awaits her Indy debut, Patrick made the talk-show circuit, including 10 minutes Monday night in New York with "the boss"—"Late Show" host Letterman.

Said Letterman: "Regardless of sex, she's a rookie. She turned in a tremendous performance [in qualifying]. She has a legitimate shot at winning the whole [darn] thing."

Patrick predicts women will follow her example and join open-wheel racing.

"If I do win, they might just come out of the woodwork," she said. "I have a feeling it might change motor sports forever."

New York Times News Service

a million fans

night," she said. "It was a magnificent achievement which will be remembered for many years both in Liverpool and across the country."

Liverpudlians celebrated into the early hours Thursday, with thousands filling pubs and bars in the city center. Only four were arrested, two for being drunk and disorderly and two for assault.

Thousands of fans who traveled to Istanbul returned Thursday after a night of celebrations in Turkey. Hundreds of charter flights were severely delayed at Istanbul's second airport, Sabiha Gokcen.

"I am very upset that they are taking the cup round Liverpool tonight and all those people who helped them win it won't be there," Liverpool fan Anne Macdougall said in Istanbul. *AP*

Wimbledon's balls under discussion

WIMBLEDON, England—You can tell the start of Wimbledon is only a month away.

In a tournament where every blade of grass comes under world scrutiny, officials Thursday attempted to head off any controversy about the balls used at the grass-court classic.

After years of opening the cans of balls beforehand, officials will open them this year on-court.

Wimbledon starts on June 20 and the final is scheduled for July 3.

Four-time semifinalist Tim Henman, also a member of the All England Club, says Wimbledon officials open the cans weeks in advance.

Henman said this slows the speed, which hinders his serve-and-volley game.

In a statement Thursday, Wimbledon chief executive Chris Gorringe said the practice of opening the cans beforehand began a decade ago.

He said ball-maker Slazenger assured the club "that this would not make any difference to the balls' playing properties."

"This practice has been carried out for over 10 years and was certainly not a couple of weeks in advance, as has been suggested," Gorringe said.

Gorringe also said the other Grand Slam tournaments open cans on the court.

Roger Federer and Maria Sharapova are the defending champions of Wimbledon. *AP*

HENMAN AFP

New direction...

From page A21

dates)," Romasanta added. "But he's keeping them close to his chest."

Romasanta bared that Cojuangco will be looking for someone who is competent and acceptable to all the leagues and who can plan efforts for a clear direction for basketball in the country.

The former congressman from Tarlac would want the man in charge of the caretaker committee to be able to come up with a satellite organization that would enable the provinces to easily involve themselves in the sport.

"That's the very essence of the name of the BAP," Romasanta said.

Go will be the point man of the POC in lieu of the suspended BAP, which is continuing to hold office at the Rizal Memorial Complex despite the suspension handed down by the POC on Wednesday.

A secretary working in the BAP office continued handing out media accreditations yesterday, amid reports that the organization of the Champion's Cup was in disarray.

Go has two days to work for the smooth holding of the 10-nation tournament and the PBA had said that their only involvement in the event is the formation and upkeep of team that will represent the Philippines.

Richest darts contest slated

THE PROVINCIAL capital of Cabadbaran hosts the 38th Araw ng Agusan del Norte National Darts Classic, the richest darts tournament in the history of Philippine Darts, on July 17 to 19.

The tournament offers a total cash prize of P400,000, a major breakthrough in prize money for darts. The P200,000 Open Singles, the richest event in darts, awards the first six-figure prize of P100,000 to the men's singles champion.

The event lineup also includes the P50,000 Ladies' Singles, the P60,000 national team Championship, the P45,000 Classified Draw Triples, the P40,000 Classified Draw Doubles, and the P5,000 national Youth Singles.

The project is a brainchild of Gov. Eripe John M. Amante of Agusan del Norte as a means to promote tourism in the province.

"The P100,000 singles cash prize will surely uplift the life of the champion and his family," said Tito Soncuya, president of the National Dart Foundation of the Philippines (NDFP).

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GMA ARTIST CENTER

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Old bitter rivals join hands to fuel Heat

MIAMI—They were once bitter rivals, sharing nothing but disdain for the other.

From the moment Shaquille O'Neal was the No. 1 pick in the 1992 NBA Draft, one spot ahead of Alonzo Mourning, the pair have been linked—and the relationship was never good. O'Neal once wanted to fight Mourning; in turn, Mourning questioned if O'Neal had any true basketball skill.

Yet their marriage as Miami teammates has gone splendidly, with the two becoming fast friends because of a shared goal—delivering the Heat's first NBA championship.

"He and I both want the same thing," O'Neal said. "We want to get it done."

In the Eastern Conference finals against Detroit, a best-of-seven series now tied at a game apiece, O'Neal and Mourning have occasionally been paired on the court—although both are centers. When playing alongside O'Neal, Mourning moves to power forward.

"It'll be a little more challenging for opponents when we're in the game together," Mourning said. "If they go past me, then they've got to see him. If they go past him, then they've got to see me."

Both teams took Thursday off. Game 3 of the series is Sunday on the Pistons' home floor.

Late in Miami's 92-86 win in Game 2 of the series on Wednesday night, Mourning proved invaluable, especially on the defensive end. He played eight minutes in the final quarter, officially being credited in that stint with two blocks; he appeared to warrant a third when Ben Wallace missed a dunk with 4:51 left.

Another Wallace shot was blocked by Mourning with 3:43 left, this one setting up Dwyane Wade for a layup that put Miami ahead, 83-78. And Wallace tried to run over Mourning's screen on Miami's next possession, sending Mourning to the line for two freethrows; he made both and put the Heat up by seven.

Mourning's end-of-game numbers seemed modest: 22 minutes, six points, four blocks, two rebounds. But O'Neal heaped plenty of praise in Mourning's direction after the game.

"Zo's definitely playing well, playing hard, blocking shots, playing good defense," said O'Neal, who had 17 points and 10 rebounds in Game 2. "It was great. He had my back a couple times, couple times I really couldn't get to the rebound because I was trying to hold Ben Wallace off."

Some of Detroit's players, including Chauncey Billups and Rasheed Wallace, said they didn't think the O'Neal-Mourning pairing mattered much. But Detroit coach Larry Brown was a bit more complimentary.

"Zo, everybody forgets how good he is. But they did a good job," Brown said Wednesday night. "Defensively they forced us a little outside. They challenged shots, they did a lot of good things."

Mourning, who still takes numerous medications for his kidney disease and the resultant transplant, said he's willing to play as much as Miami needs—especially with O'Neal still slowed by a bruised right thigh.

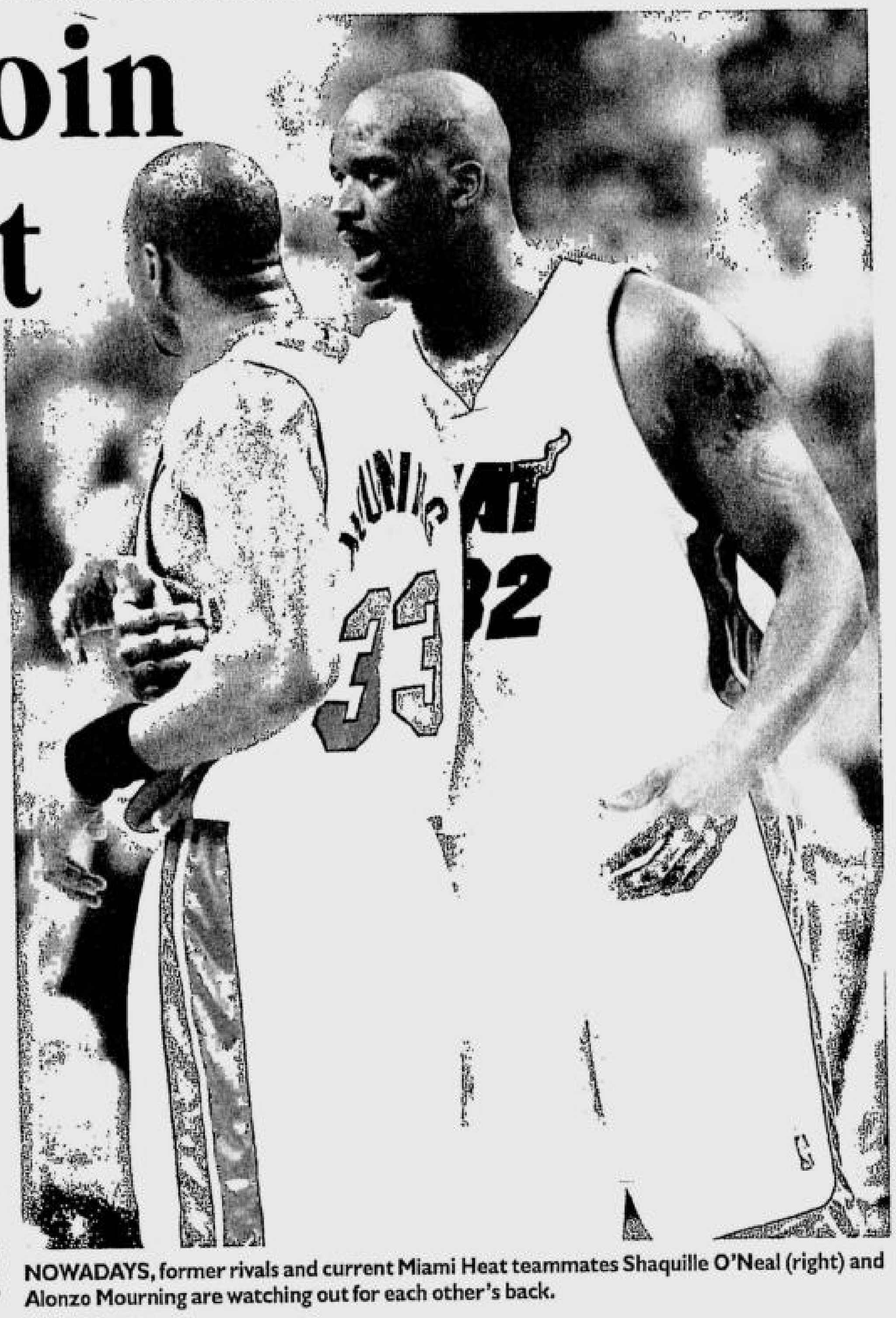
"It ain't time to conserve nothing right now. It's winning time," Mourning said. "I can go full-tilt. You don't have to cut back my minutes. My doctors have said 'Hey, you can go all out. You can do what you have to do.'"

When the Heat re-signed Mourning as a free agent late in the regular season, many wondered if Shaq and Zo could peacefully coexist. The answer was a resounding 'yes.'

On Tuesday, O'Neal picked up Mourning, and the two took Wade on a pep talk disguised as a joyride.

They stressed how important Wade was to Miami's championship chances, how he should simply ignore what he was hearing about the way he played in the Heat's Game 1 loss. The chat sent Wade's spirits soaring; he dropped 40 points on the Pistons in Game 2.

"I listen to guys who have been doing it for years, " Wade said. "And I just try to come out and make them proud." *AP*



NOWADAYS, former rivals and current Miami Heat teammates Shaquille O'Neal (right) and Alonzo Mourning are watching out for each other's back.

National athletes back 'Ninong' FG

MORE than 200 national athletes and coaches from 13 national sports associations (NSAs) have manifested their support and gratitude to beleaguered First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, whom they consider the "Godfather of Philippine Sports" in an open letter circulated at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Among those who signed the letter citing the help of Arroyo to local sports are gymnasts Roel Ramirez, Phoebe Espiritu and Cintamoni de Guzman, marathoner Allan Ballester, wushu stars Arvin Ting, Rene Catalan and Willy Wang, judoka Nancy Quillotes and archers Abigail Tindugan and Syd Nerickzon Fraginal.

The other athletes, who are among the 1,000 preparing for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games set here Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 come from basketball, archery, athletics, wushu, wrestling, pencak silak, boxing, gymnastics, rowing, judo, water polo, fencing and shooting.

The letter recognizes the big boost from the sports programs of Arroyo in 2003 (Alay at Suporta sa Atletang Pilipino) and this year (Medalyang Ginto, May Laban Tayo). The First Gentleman, the letter acknowledges, has rallied the private sector to raise funds for the allowances and training of athletes preparing for the SEA Games.

According to the letter, the program of Arroyo proved to be the most successful cooperation between the government sports agency (Philippine Sports Commission) and the private sector.

"This unprecedented show of support by the First Gentleman provided the much-needed boost for our national athletes and coaches to push ourselves over the limit to ensure our best performance [in the SEA Games]," the letter adds.

Through Mr. Arroyo, the private sector now acts as the sports "godfather" or "*ninong*" to one or more disciplines.

The athletes extend their gratitude to the FG and call for an end to the "unfounded tirades against *Ninong* Mike. [They] also call on "our *Ninong* Mike to further pursue his mission to take the cudgels for Team Philippines."

CHAMPIONS MEN'S doubles Level C champions Terrence Uy and Roland Go receive their prizes from Fred Syling of the Hemady Sports Plaza after a badminton tournament held recently for the benefit of the Children's Hour. The tournament coincided with the 1st anniversary of the Hemady Sports Plaza.

GINOBILI AFP

Ginobili becoming go-to guy of Spurs

SAN ANTONIO—The way things have been going for Argentine star Manu Ginobili and the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA playoffs lately, anything seems possible.

Back in the starting lineup after eight games as a super sub, Ginobili scored 39 points in Game 5 against the SuperSonics, then in Game 6 whipped a pass to Tim Duncan for the series-winning shot with 0.5 seconds left. Ginobili capped the first quarter of Game 1 in Phoenix with a 52-foot bank shot, then guided a decisive 9-2 run in the fourth quarter of Game 2.

"I just thought Ginobili was somebody special," said Phoenix coach Mike D'Antoni, who also saw Ginobili score a career-best 48 points against Phoenix during the regular season. "He's tough, he's smart, he's quick. He's got it all, and at big moments he plays big. Those are things you don't teach."

When Ginobili joined the Spurs three seasons ago, he was a backup and offense was an afterthought. That club was all about defense and did it so well it won the championship.

You only have to watch Ginobili for a few minutes to notice his energy and passion. In many ways, he's a bigger, left-handed version of Phoenix's Steve Nash—all the way to the length of their hair.

Nash said of Ginobili: "I don't think he's the quickest guy in the league, but he's quick, he's skilled, he's extremely clever, he's super tough, and he's a gamer."

When Ginobili joined the Spurs three seasons ago, he was a backup and offense was an afterthought. That club was all about defense and did it so well it won the championship.

These days, the Spurs are two wins from returning to the NBA Finals and they can still play great defense. The difference: Ginobili is now a starter and, not so coincidentally, San Antonio's offense is a lot more fun to watch.

"He's so creative," Duncan said.

After three straight road games, the Spurs finally return home Saturday night and Monday night. While fans will be anxiously awaiting to see what Ginobili's next trick will be, the bigger news will involve the Suns.

Injured guard Joe Johnson practiced Thursday and said he expects to be in the Phoenix lineup for Game 3.

Even without Johnson, the Suns have been scoring well over 100 points. The surprising thing is that the Spurs have been able to top them.

Slowly but surely, coach Gregg Popovich has given Ginobili more free reign.

"I think it was gradual, but steady," Ginobili said of his growing role. "I started doing the little things that every team needs. That was the way to gain Pop's confidence [and] to show your teammates that you are a team player, that you don't care about the stats, that you want to make them better, too, and that you just care about winning."

Ginobili was rewarded last summer with a $52-million, six-year contract. Since then, he's led Argentina to a gold medal at the Olympics and made his first All-Star team.

"That's just a natural progression for a good player," Popovich said. "As a player matures in the league and understands the system and gets comfortable, if he's good enough, he becomes a go-to guy." *AP*

Injury freezes Dutch swim champ

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands—Dutch Olympic swimming champion Pieter van den Hoogenband won't swim at the world championships in Montreal in July because he is still recovering from a hernia operation.

"Doctors have warned me that I'd be taking an irresponsible risk if I took part," he wrote Friday in a weekly column in the Dutch newspaper Algemeen Dagblad.

He said he was swimming well after the operation but "not at full speed. I avoid fast starts and turns. If I test myself explosively, I could do irreparable damage to my body."

Van den Hoogenband won two gold medals in Sydney, setting world records in the 100- and 200-m freestyle. He defended his 100 title with gold in Athens last summer. In all, he has four gold, 10 silver and five bronze medals in world competitions.

He said he was sorry to miss Montreal but was now focusing on the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

"In China I want to become the first swimmer in history to win gold three consecutive times in the royal event, the 100-m freestyle," he wrote. *AP*

VAN DEN Hoogenband

Champions Cup: Indian five doesn't worry RP coach Chot

By Roy Luarca

THERE are no scouting reports on India, but RP Team coach Chot Reyes is far from worried.

He wants to test the adaptability of his wards to unknown situations in the 16th Fiba-Asia Champions Cup which begins tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We've absolutely no idea (India) and that's good," said Reyes. "We like to play ourselves in a position where our ability to adjust and adapt will be put to test."

The Filipinos, composed of Philippine Basketball Association stars, tackle the Indians at 6 p.m. after the 5:30 opening ceremony of the eight-nation tournament co-hosted by the PBA and the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Other inaugural games pit I.R. Iran against defending champion Lebanon-Sagesse at 12:30 p.m., Kuwait against Syria at 2:45 p.m. and United Arab Emirates-Sarjah against Jordan-Fast Link at 8:15 p.m.

Qatar-Al Bayyan and Kazakhstan-Tobol drew a bye.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has given her full backing to the event which will run up to June 5.

In a message sent to the BAP, Ms Arroyo said: "Cordial greetings to the BAP as you host the Champions Cup."

"This athletic competition is a perfect venue for each delegation to develop and enhance the teamwork and improve the individual capabilities of the athletes. By continually staging this event, the Fiba not only molds the athletes into well-rounded committed citizens, but also impresses upon their minds the importance of devoting their talents to constructive and productive ends for their individual benefit and for the common good;" the President wrote the BAP.

"May we continue to promote Philippine tourism and make our foreign guest experience our unique brand of Filipino hospitality," Ms Arroyo added.

Joining the Phillppines and India in Group A are Lebanon, Kazakhstan and Iran.

Group B is composed of Syria, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait and Jordan.

Tournament format calls for the teams to battle their groupmates in the single-round elimination, with the top two squads in each group advancing to the crossover semifinals.

Qatar will be headed by 6-foot-8 Yassen Ismael Musa, two-time Most Valuable Player of the ABC Champions Cup, 6-6 Mohammed Orabi Al-Jabri and Mohammed Seleem Abdulla.

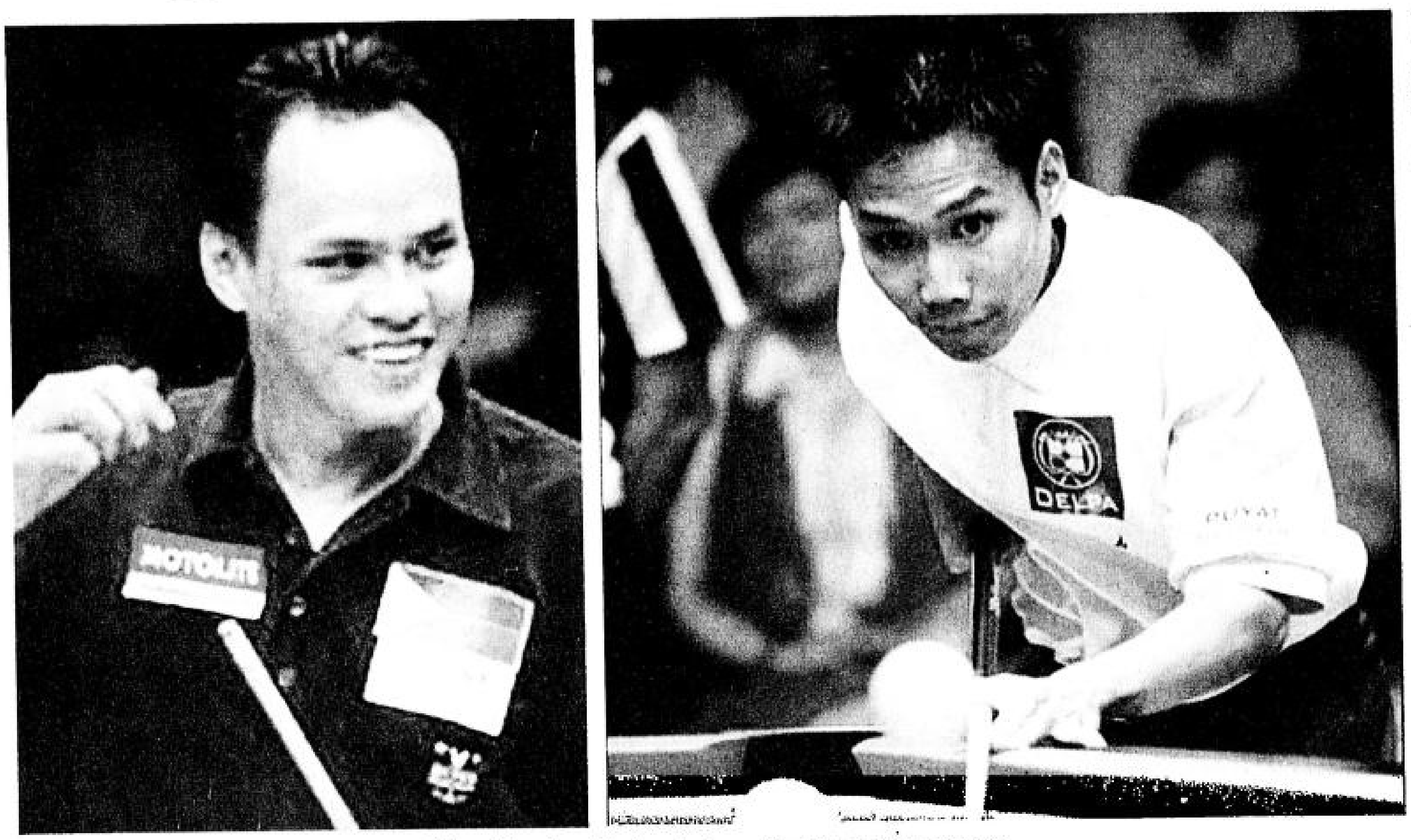
Beefing up the Qataris, who are already in town, is American Tadd Day.

India, UAE and Kuwait have also arrived with the rest of the teams scheduled to plane in last night.

Composing Team RP-San Miguel Beer are San Miguel Beer's Nic Belasco and Dondon Hontiveros, Talk 'N Text's Jimmy Alapag, Yancy de Ocampo and Willie Miller; Barangay Ginebra's Romel Adducul and Mark Caguioa; Coca-Cola's Rafi Reavis, FedEx's Renren Ritualo and Alaska's Sonny Thoss.

ALL-FILIPINO BILLIARDS

Pagulayan, Bustamante rout foes



EITHER Bustamante (left) or Pagulayan will head for the exit after their semifinal tussle late last night.

WORLD pool champion Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan and Francisco "Django" Bustamante hurdled their separate rivals with ease to set up a highly anticipated match in the Hope P1-M All-Filipino Billiards Challenge II at the LS Studio 2 of IBC 13 in Quezon City.

Pagulayan, finalist of the World Pool Championships over the last two years, outclassed Carlo Viado, 9-2, while Bustamante swept up Jeffrey de Luna, 9-0, to advance to the next round in this tournament sponsored by Hope in cooperation with Puyat Sports and Jemah Television.

The Pagulayan-Bustamante semifinal tussle was being played at presstime.

In the round of 16, Pagulayan defeated Lee Van Corteza, 9-2, while Bustamante demolished Antonio Lining, 9-1.

Earlier, Efren "Bata" Reyes showed too much class in beating his quarterfinal foe, Warren Kiamco, 9-4.

The second win in as many days pushed the man called "The Magician" on a collision course with upset-conscious Richard Aguilar.

Aguilar, a discovery from the TM Philippine 9-Ball Champions League like De Luna, claimed his second major victim in as many days, beating veteran Leonardo Andam, 9-8.

Last Wednesday, Aguilar pulled the rug from under billiards icon Jose "Amang" Parica by the same score, 9-8.

Carlo Biado and Jharome Pena, two other finds from the TM 9-Ball organized by Ramon Tuason, have bowed out of contention.

The champion in the All-Filipino tournament will take home P500,000 while the runner-up will receive P200,000.

Third and fourth placers will each get P50,000 while the fifth and sixth placers will receive P30,000.

A P20,000 prize will be given to the seventh and eighth placers of this event while P15,000 will be rewarded to the ninth to 12th placers.

The 13th to 16th placers will each receive P10,000.

SPORTSWATCH

Global Destiny league semis up

GROUP champions in the First Global Destiny Basketball League are now deep in training for the intercity phase set to reel off in the middle of June. Valenzuela Yellow, San Juan Orange, Muntinlupa Violet, Makati Blue and Quezon City Blue have topped their respective groups in the event backed by Solid Video, Sony Phils., and MyDestiny Cable Internet. Pasay Violet nipped Pasay Red, 85-77, last weekend and became the latest squad to join the other teams into the next round of the tournament also backed by Regent Food and Molten balls. "All of these teams worked hard to win their respective groups. We can expect a lot of tough competition in the intercity round of the First Global Destiny Basketball League," tournament commissioner Jet Gaerlan, who is also Global VP for marketing and special events, said.

BCAP cage clinics start June 1

THE BASKETBALL Coaches Association of the Philippines, in coordination with AYN Sports Management, will be holding the first of its biennial clinics for coaches from June 1 to 3 at the Emilio Aguinaldo Gymnasium along General Luna Street in Paco, Manila. Sponsored by Sunbolt, the newest sports drink in the Philippines, the three-day seminar will be conducted by Tim Cone of Alaska, Yeng Guiao of Red Bull, Alfrancis Chua of Sta. Lucia and multititled coach Derick Pumaren, who currently sits on the bench of the UE Warriors and the PBL's Harbour Centre as team consultant. In its desire to continue the development of players from the grassroots level, AYN Sports Management has tied up with organizations in the USA, Europe and China to design a coach's development program. Chito Narvasa, president of the BCAP and AYN Sports, will present this nationwide development program to the coaches. For reservations and information, interested parties may call 687-2156 to 58 or e-mail sports@aynresource.net.ph.

Mandaluyong age-group tennis

THE MANDALUYONG Tennis Club will hold its first National Age-Group Tennis tournament on June 3-5 and 11-12 at the MTC courts, NCMH compound in Mandaluyong City. Events on tap are boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under. Register at the MTC (531-9001 and 721-7617) or contact MTC president Baby Gregorio (0927-2311567).

Provincial gamebirds see action

THE BEST gamebirds from the provinces will be unleashed today as Roligon Mega Cockpit's "Summer Heat 4–Cock Derby" gets under way at 4 p.m. Seeing action are Bobby Seelin, Romy de Guzman, Jeffrey Loreto, Dennis Araulio, Capt. Baldos, E.R. Ponsing, Tonton Uy, Rep. Lawrence Wacnang, Jeric Junio and Rey Briones, among others. Slated today is the first round eliminations while the second round is on Monday. All qualifiers challenge one another for the title on Wednesday, June 1. Admission prices are P200 and P300. Awaiting the fastest winner is a Toyota Hi- Lux Diesel. The guaranteed prize is P1.2 million. To be hosted by Roligon owner Rolly Ligon, the cockfest is an offshoot of the Game Ka Na Ba derby last month.

Sta. Ana hosts 4-cock derby

WITH more than 100 fights scheduled, action starts at noon today in the championship round of "Daytime 4–Cock Derby" at Sta. Ana Cockpit (A. P. Reyes Avenue, Makati City). Sixteen entries tallied two wins each Thursday in the elimination round, and received P10,000 each as bonus, said hosts Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola. All qualifiers plus the 28 new participants who will field straight four cocks will see action in today's finale. The guaranteed prize is P700,000 for an entry fee of P5,500. Interested parties may call 898 -3474 and 898 -3475 for inquiries or 0921 -5191962 (Aba) and 0918 - 9251121 (Kags). Meanwhile, Sta. Ana Cockpit's regular hackfight schedule is every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

'Sabong' action resumes at LPC

FAST–PACED and exciting *sabong* action resumes at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum tonight with the staging of another special 3 cock derby to be sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. About 50 fights are lined up in this event to be hosted by Eldie Soriano and coucilor Otoy Abarsoza, who invited cockers from Muntinlupa Cockpit, San Pedro Coliseum, Las Piñas Coliseum, Elorde and Cavite Coliseum. At stake is P300,000 with P5,500 as entry fee. Call 873–1040 and 874–3910 or 0926-7450375 (look for Julius). Meanwhile, Las Piñas Coliseum's hackfight schedule is from Monday to Sunday, said pit manager Alex Tobias. Also set is the "Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan" on June 2, with Eric and Renato Shio as hosts.

Buenavista, Martes topbill Power Race

CLOSE to 3,500 runners, from the cream of the crop down to the weekend joggers and enthusiasts, will answer the starting gun at the break of dawn tomorrow when the 2005 New Balance Power Race fires off at the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Eduardo "Vertek" Buenavista and Christabel Martes remain the runners to beat in the centerpiece 25K event but a host of others will be out to foil the fancied pair's back-to-back title bid in the men's and ladies divisions of what has become one of the country's biggest running events in terms of prize money and participation.

In fact, the New Balance Power Race, offering a total pot of P239,000 in cash and prizes, will be the first to feature a competition among the country's top corporations with Toyota fielding in five seven-man teams in the 10K corporate run which stakes P30,000 worth of gift certificates to the champion.

Toyota will have Innova, Altis, Hilux, Camry and Vios in the 18-team cast which includes ABS-CBN, Advance Newtech Industrial Corp., Cargo Safeway, Inc., Fluor-Daniel, Inc., Gold's Gym, Hewlett-Packard AP (HK) Ltd., Meralco, Mercury Drug, NCR Command (AFP), Procter & Gamble Alpha, Procter & Gamble Asia, San Miguel Corp. and TMC Corp.

Also on tap in the event, sponsored by New Balance for the fourth straight year and backed by Planet Sports, The Athletes Foot, Dickies Underwear, Power Bar and HSBC, is the 4K collegiate run featuring six four-man squads vying for the top P16,000 cash prize.

They include Assumption College, De la Salle-A (men's) and De la Salle-B (women's), Mapua, UP Diliman and University of Santo Tomas.

Sen. Pia Cayetano, Philippine Olympic Committee chair Robert Aventajado, Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga, Siemens country manager Baby Revilla, Cynthia Carrion, actor Ricky Davao and taekwondo star Japoy Lizardo will grace the race. Participants must be at the assembly area on 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City not later than 5 a.m. for race briefings and check in.

HOUR OF THE HORSEMEN: Horseracing icon Don Antonio Floirendo Sr. receives the Hall of Fame of Racing award from Klub Don Juan de Manila president Sonny Arevalo (in coat) as Ambassador Tonet Lagdameo (left) and Pangasinan Rep. Mikey Arroyo (holding his daughter Mikaela) look on during the third anniversary celebration of the KDJM last Monday at the Bahay Pangarap at Malacañang. Other awardees who were recognized for their big contributions in the horseracing industry are (clockwise, from the top): Jose "Bebo" Quiroz as Breeder of the Year; former Manila mayor and Grand Copa de Manila exponent Don Ramon Bagatsing as Horseman of the Year (he was represented by his two sons, Rep. Amado and Dondon Bagatsing Jr.); jockey Pati Dilema as Jockey of the Year; David C. Lee, owner of Horse of the Year awardee Empire King; Ruben Tupas as Trainer of the Year; Hermie Esguerra as Horseowner of the Year; and Mandaluyong Rep. Benhur Abalos as Ambassador of Horse Racing Awardee.

Canceled fight in Florida gives Peñalosa heartache

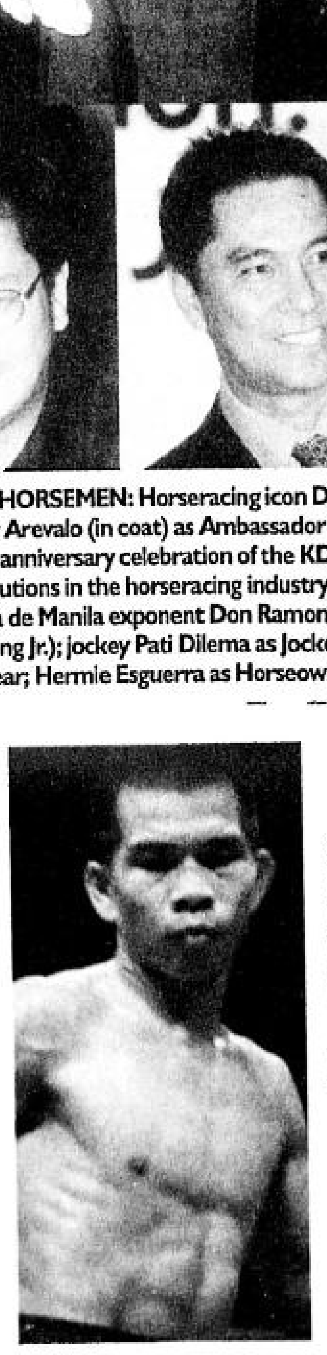
by Salven L. Lagumbay

GERRY Peñalosa, inactive since last November, was all primed up to see action again on American soil. What he encountered, instead, was heartache following a botched bout.

The former World Boxing Council superfly king was slated to meet his Colombian foe Reynaldo Hurtado for the first time yesterday during the official weigh-in of a card to be held at the Club Cinema in Pompano Beach, Florida. The Filipino ex-champ, however, was told the fight was off about 24 hours before leathers were set to start flying.

The bout would have been Peñalosa's first under the promotional arm of Murad Muhammad and his first under new trainer Buddy McGirt. As it turned out, it might as well have been his last.

Sportsman Tony Aldeguer, who discovered and raised Peñalosa into an outstanding fighter, revealed that the southpaw was on his way to the weigh-in yesterday when he received a phone call that Hurtado wanted more money to face him. Peñalosa volunteered that half of his agreed purse be given to Hurtado so they could fight. Despite the offer, however, Hurtado's camp still pulled out of the fight.



PEÑALOSA

18 national lift marks fall

CEBU CITY—A total of 18 national records were set at the start of the Philippine Weightlifting Association National 5-in-1 Open Championships women's division at the Baseline Restaurant and Recreation Center here.

Cebuana national team member Evan Gicain swept the senior 75 kg division by erasing the records of Judith Sulla. She scored 72.5 kg (55 kg) in the snatch and 102.5 kg (77.5) in the clean and jerk for a total of 175 kg (132.5 kg).

Sharing honors are fellow Cebuanos Ester Cabasura, Emily Rosas and Kelle Kay Rojas.

In the 69 kg class, Cabasura ripped the marks of Ethel Caugiran when she posted 85 kg (70 kg) in the snatch and 100 kg (92.5) in the clean and jerk for a total of 185 kg (165 kg).

Nava keeps lead despite draw

NATIONAL Master Roderick Nava saw his winning run halted in the seventh round, but the draw was all he needed to retain solo leadership in the boys' division of the 2005 National Juniors Championship at the Activity Center of SM City Manila.

Nava pushed his total to 6.5 points, half-point ahead of the surging RJ Magallanes and Dino Ballecer.

Woman National Master Aices Salvador beat fellow WNM Loreshyl Cuizon to tally her sixth point in seven games.

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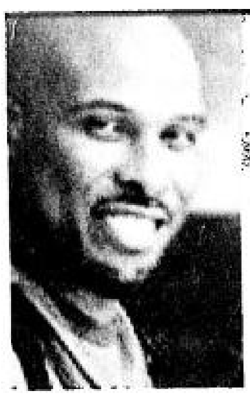


FOR 'AMAZING RACE 7' WINNERS UCHENNA AND JOYCE

Good guys finish first

UCHENNA (far left) and Joyce Agu simply refused to give up!

By Jocelyn Valle

UCHENNA and Joyce Agu, considered underdogs in the seventh edition of "The Amazing Race," showed that good guys really finish first when they beat high-profile couple Rob Mariano and Amber Brkich, who employed the dog-eat-dog strategy that had made them infamous on "Survivor."

Joyce told us in a recent phone interview that a crucial moment in the race was edited out during the airing of the two-hour finale last May 11 (live via satellite on Studio 23). She related that she and Uchenna almost missed the connecting flight from San Juan, Puerto Rico to the race's final destination (Miami, Florida) because the ticket agent told them they couldn't be accommodated anymore.

Ticket agent

Refusing to give up, Joyce said they asked around and found out from other airline employees that the ticket agent had earlier let Rob and Amber in.

"The ticket agent changed her mind when we confronted her," Uchenna added. "I think it was guilt, but ultimately it was the pilot's decision that made it possible for us to get on the flight. It was a miracle!"

Uchenna, 40, and Joyce, 44, on the other hand, showed integrity throughout the competition, particularly when they refused to abandon the taxi driver who brought them from Miami's Little Havana, where Rob and Amber had trouble finding the site where the last clue was to be found, to the finish line in Fort Lauderdale.

Strangers

The couple was short about $35. Instead of running away to make sure that they'd be the first to check in, the couple begged nearby strangers to help them pay their fare. They also asked for the driver's address as they handed the money to him. Uchenna promised him that they'd send him a thank-you card.

"I'm glad that we're able to show the right values," said Uchenna. "Our family is very proud of us."

And, yes, they are set to mail gratitude cards not only to the cabbie but also to the other teams they've gotten close to, like grandparents Gretchen and Meredith Smith and gay couple Lynn Warren and Alex Ali.

"Our strategy was not to be last (at every pit stop), but it was also important for us to be able to smell the roses and develop friendships with the other teams," Uchenna said. "During the last leg, we really felt them praying for us."

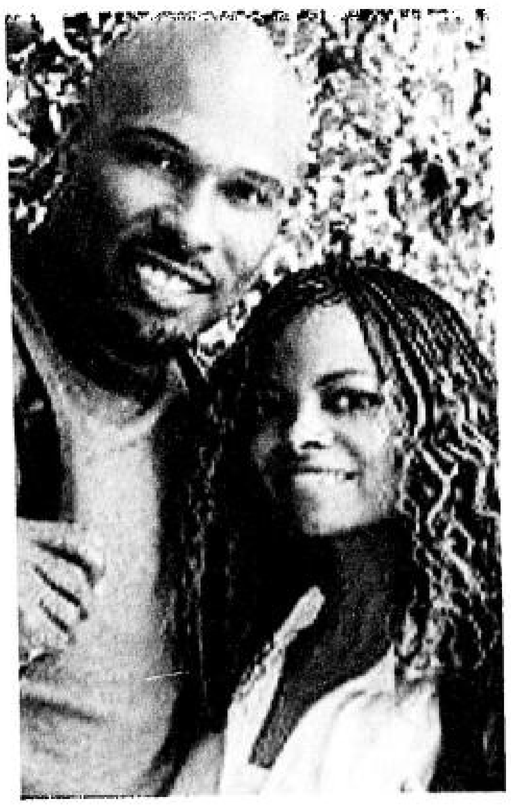
Decision

Uchenna admitted to being moved by Joyce's decision to have her hair shaved in Jodhpur, India—a challenge in exchange for the Fast Forward that would let the team skip the Detour and Roadblock tasks and go straight to the Pit Stop.

It's customary for people in that part of India to have their hair shaved at least once in their lifetime, "TAR" host Phil Keoghan explained in his spiel.

Joyce disclosed that she expected the challenge to go her way because she had seen, in the fifth season, models Brandon and Nicole refuse to have their golden locks shaved, losing the Fast Forward in the process.

"I remember taunting their decision, but it was a different feeling when they started cutting off my hair," she said in reflection. (Tears flowed down her cheeks during the ritual.)



WINNING couple showed integrity throughout the competition.

True enough, the married couple from Houston, Texas, emerged as Team No. 1 at the end of that episode.

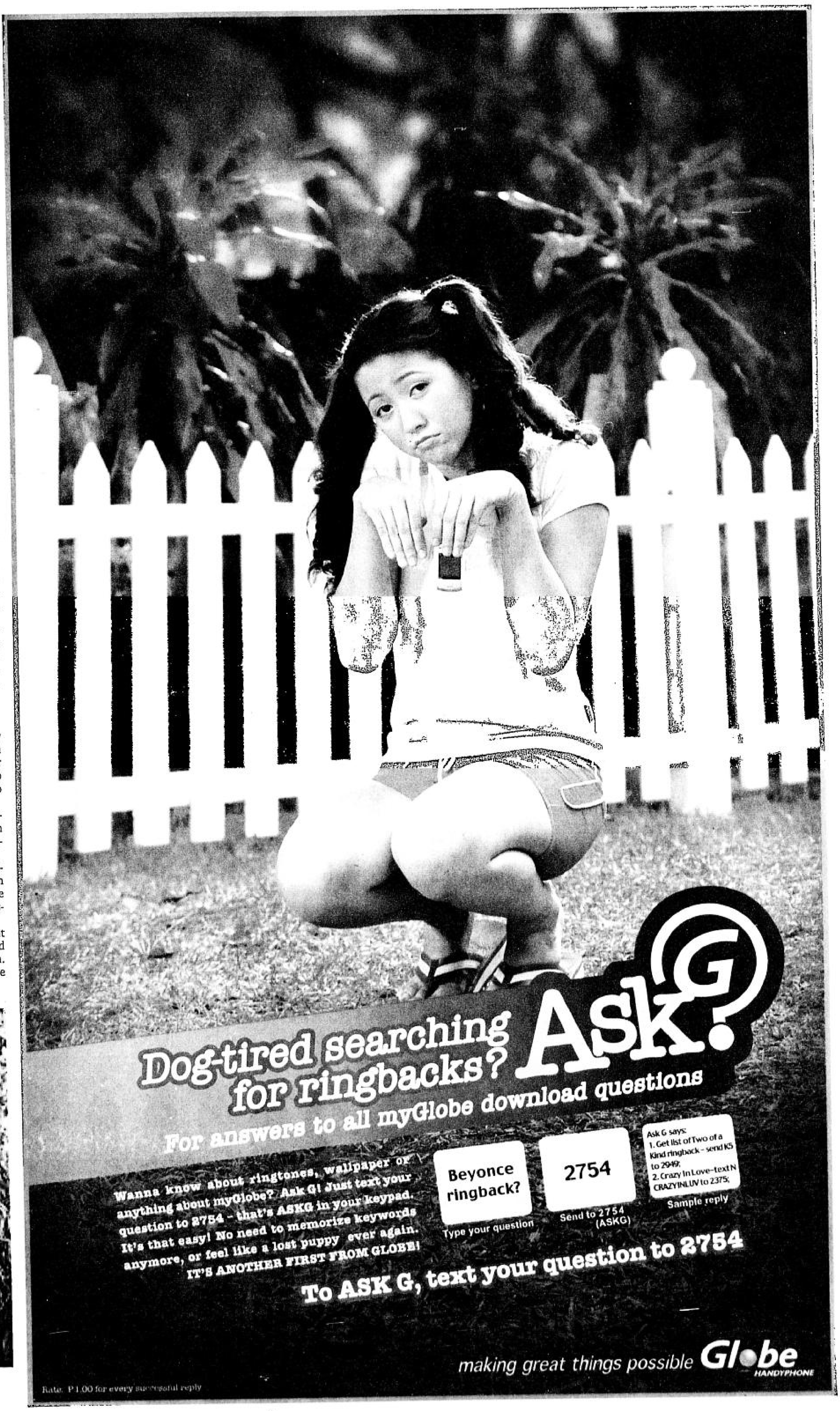
A visit to an orphanage was similarly touching for the childless couple. Part of their prize money is therefore allotted to their "baby plans," said Joyce.

As Uchenna said after being proclaimed winners, the couple would go for in-vitro fertilization, and if that doesn't work, adoption.

Prize

Another part of their prize will go to the payment of bills. Uchenna and Joyce worked for now-bankrupt companies Enron and WorldCom. As stated in their bio on "AR's" website, their primary motivation in joining the race was to regain some of the closeness they lost during those trying times.

Studio 23 and AXN are the official carriers of "The Amazing Race" in the Philippines. In the upcoming eighth season, all 11 teams will be made up of four family members each.



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Carrie Underwood is this year's American Idol

UNDERWOOD. Was occasionally required to step out of her comfort zone to hit the high notes as loudly as the rest.

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Thursday afternoon, fans of "American Idol" in the Philippines finally got the lowdown on who emerged as champion of the singing tilt's 2005 edition: Carrie Underwood was the big winner!

But, runner-up Bo Bice definitely won't be left out in the cold, as record producers agree that both of the competition's final two survivors have what it takes to make it as singing stars.

Their performing styles may be markedly different (like Marie and Donny Osmond, Carrie is "a little bit country," while Bo is "a little bit rock 'n' roll"), but both "final-finalists" have the key qualities for success in the biz: Strong singing voices, good looks, charisma, determination, love for performing, and that magic "X Factor."

Finalists

We also suspect that other finalists like Vonzell Solomon and Anthony Federov will continue to be heard from in the coming months. It's likely that Vonzell could be packaged in the Fantasia Barrino mold, while Anthony could be this year's Clay Aiken.

Now that the smoke has started to clear after the competition, it's time to evaluate this year's edition of "American Idol": Definitely, the decision to raise the tilt's maximum age limit has attracted more experienced singers with solid, expressive voices, and few teenage performers survived the tougher field and landed in the finals.

On the debit side, the contest was recently criticized by a panel of music industry veterans on the "Today" show, who bewailed the tilt's emphasis on belting. Thus, even a folk-oriented performer like Carrie was occasionally required to step out of her comfort zone to hit those high notes as loudly as the rest of them.

For our part, we think that a major change in the show has been its new openness to the rock mode, which was generally upstaged by pop and R&B styles in previous editions of the show.

With Bo and Constantine Maroulis as its compelling exponents, rock pretty much ruled this year's contest, and infused it with uncommon vitality.

Instructive

Another instructive development in the tilt was the initial dominance of its male finalists, who trounced the female bets—until the women eventually made up for lost time, and ended up filling two of the competitions three final slots.

But, the most significant *and* disturbing aspect of this year's "American Idol" was the relative unreliability of its text-voters' verdicts. When potential winner Constantine was eliminated rather early in the finals, it was no longer clear that the best talents would emerge as winner or runner-up—unlike last year's contest, where Fantasia figured strongly from beginning to end.

Backlash vote

Why has the voting occasionally appeared to be whimsical and unreliable? Did Constantine's fans let down their guard? Was there a backlash vote against him from viewers who found him too full of himself? Whatever the reason, his relatively early elimination in the finals raises questions about the voting process that should be resolved in time for next year's competition.

Meanwhile, we congratulate the winner and the other finalists whose professional performing careers have been launched by "American Idol," and hope that, like past finds Kelly Clarkson, Reuben Studdard, Clay Aiken and Fantasia Barrino, they will be singing professionally, and to their hearts' content, for years to come.

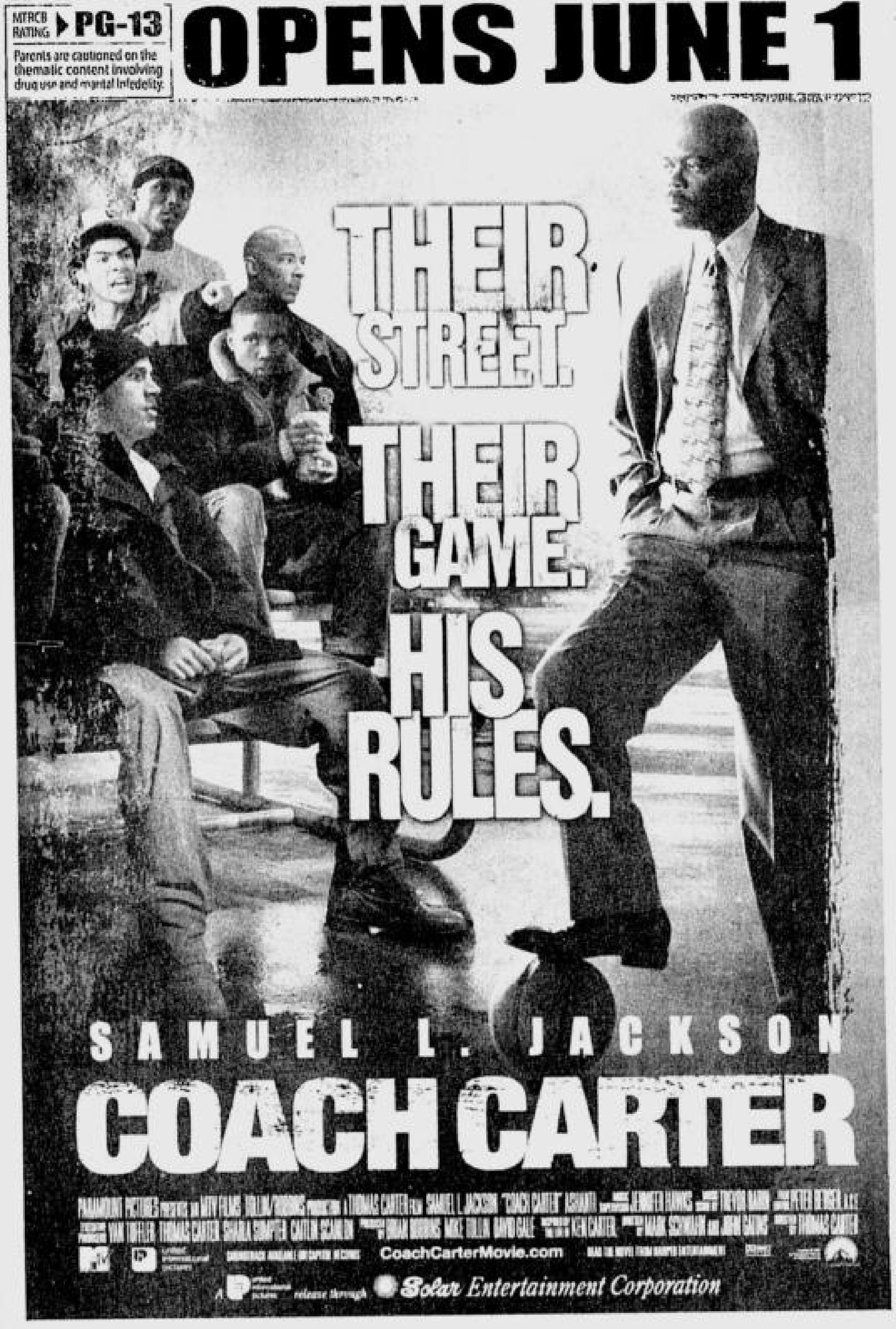
Freeman warns against piracy

CANNES, France—With high-speed Internet connections on the upswing, piracy could hit the movie industry as hard as it did the music business, Morgan Freeman warns.

Freeman is telling movie makers that they must wise up quickly to stay ahead of illegal downloaders.

"One of the things that is terrifying the industry about digital content is that, once it gets into the home, what happens to it?" Freeman told Reuters. "Government entities say that if it's on the Internet and accessible, then how can we call it piracy?"

By using an electronic key system, Intel's Kevin Corbett said that films could not be used by unauthorized users. But, it would offer the unauthorized user the opportunity to pay for the movie and watch it legally. *Reuters*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Video games increase their violence quotient

By Noelani Torre

WE had no idea how far removed from Mario Brothers video games have become until we sat down to play Grand Theft Auto on a friend's Playstation. What was unforgettable about the whole experience was the violence depicted in such graphic detail. And when we say violence, we don't mean Mario jumping up and down on a mushroom.

The violence in games like GTA involves actions like shooting down pedestrians, running over elderly people, and beating up prostitutes. That opened up a whole new world for us, and it wasn't long before we got acquainted with games like Postal 2, Doom, and Manhunt—games that feature activities like mass slaughter, and the dismemberment and killing of people with the use of guns, knives, ice picks and baseball bats. If this sounds gory on paper, you can just imagine how they look (and sound) in all their grisly glory.

Moans and screams

When people in games like these die, they do so very realistically. Blood gushes and spurts, moans and screams are heard, and so are the gruesome sounds of weapons or projectiles impacting on flesh.

What is more disturbing than these graphic depictions, however, is the fact that these acts of violence have no real context. The player is even rewarded for his or her aggressive behavior—the more aggressive you are in the game, the bigger the points and the higher the level.

Also, there appears to be a lot of violence directed against women—rape, beatings—and the thugs you have to kill usually have dark skin and African or West Asian features. Thus, these games are also guilty of promoting the objectification of women and racial stereotyping.

Shooters

Violent video games have been taking a lot of heat recently, especially in the States and Europe, where they have been linked to the increase in youth violence. The school shootings at Littleton, Paducah and Jonesboro, for example, involved shooters who were habitual players of violent video games.

According to Dr. Craig Anderson, one of the foremost researchers in the field of media violence, the Columbine shooters of Littleton "enjoyed playing a bloody video game," and one of them "created a customized version with two shooters, extra weapons, unlimited ammunition, and victims who couldn't fight back—features that are eerily similar to the actual shootings."

Other psychologists counter that you can't put the blame on just one thing, given the complexity of human behavior. We tend to agree with them, but the emerging research in the area also has some rather disturbing implications.

Aggressive behavior

Because of the relative youth of the genre—violent video games started coming out in the early '90s—there hasn't been a lot of research done thus far. What scientific literature there is on the subject, however, more or less agrees that violent video games do indeed increase aggressive behavior in children and young adults.

Moreover, a meta-analysis conducted by Anderson and Bushman "reveals that exposure to violent video games increases psychological arousal and aggression-related thoughts and feelings."

These are short-term effects, however, inasmuch as not enough time has passed for experts to measure the long-term effects of such exposure.

Even though these games are rated M (Mature) and AO (Adults Only), kids can still access them pretty easily. Thus, it's up to parents to monitor their children's games.

Bestsellers

Despite all the bad press they've been having though, violent video games still saturate the market and remain bestsellers. GTA 3 was 2001's bestselling video game and GTA: Vice City was 2002's.

Recently, a newly released game called Narc, which features drug use, among other things (though to be fair, this results in eventual punishment), has also been making waves.

The makers of these games justify their creations by saying that violence is what the market demands. The bestselling video game of all time, however, is none other than Maxis' The Sims, a non-violent game that is more accessible to more people than GTA, Manhunt, etc.

What game developers have to realize is that more people want non-violent games. If they really want to make more money, they should widen their target demographic to include the rest of society, and not just males aged 13-30!

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Filmmakers present 'Carte-de-Visite'

By Rica Arevalo

WHEN cinematographer Neil Daza invited me to visit the old Marikina Shoe Expo in Cubao, I was hesitant because of the tremendous traffic in the area. But, he assured me that I would enjoy myself because the place is starting to be a new haven for artists.

Neil was the director of photography in one of my short films, but he has honed his craft as one of Chino Roño's cinematographers.

Venue

Neil has opened a venue for alternative photography called the Blacksoup Project Artspace. Currently, the place is exhibiting "Carte-de-Visite: 17 Works by 17 Photographers." Carte-de-Visite was a popular form of photograph in France during the 1860s that consisted of multiple images that served as a calling card.

"WINTER 2001" by Cesar Hernando.

Cesar Hernando, production designer of Mike de Leon's "Kisapmata" and "Batch '81" showed us "Winter 2001." He shares, "I shot this two weeks before my older sister died of cancer. Her house is located in Pennsylvania,

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Future child stars are motivated, not forced

By Nestor U. Torre

FROM time to time, parents of little would-be performers ask us for tips on how to make sure that their kids will become show biz stars as soon as possible.

NIÑO Muhlach epitomized the young talent who loved to perform.

First off, we tell them that "as soon as possible" is a practically meaningless expectation, because the time when a child talent finally achieves stardom is dependent, not on his family's druthers, but on the producers and directors whose decision to give a chosen few their big break is really all that matters.

So, it isn't important that a child talent's doting relatives and friends *know* that he's this generation's Niño Muhlach; what's money in the bank is if the prime movers of the show biz industry think so.

Objective note

How can the parents or handlers of a child talent stack the stakes in favor of their best bet for stardom? Veteran starmakers offer these key signposts, which we trust all young hopefuls and their mentors will take *objective* note of:

Motivation. Sure, you are hell-bent on making your child a star—but, is your cute son or daughter as motivated as you are? This is a very important consideration, because if you push your child to become a performer, and he doesn't enjoy it, he won't go far. His lack of genuine enthusiasm will show in his performance, audiences won't respond warmly to him—and you can kiss your dreams of reflected fame and fortune goodbye.

Worse, the child who's forced into a show biz career could develop a host of unfortunate and even tragic psychological problems. So, before you proceed any further, take objective stock of your child's motivation. If he doesn't have the *hilig* or yen for performing, don't inflict your own desire of popularity on the poor tyke.

Instead, pinpoint his genuine interests and help him attain proficiency in them. Show biz's "loss" will definitely be your child's gain in terms of his mental, emotional and psychological health, not to mention his happiness.

Popular

Of course, some parents will frankly confess that they want their cute kids to become popular performers because they need the money. Despite their best efforts, parents can't make both ends meet, so they're hoping that their kids can earn millions and thus pull their families out of the deep financial hole they're in.

Sad to say, many child talents' folks are in dire straits, and the young performers have become their families' breadwinners. This is the reality, but its being the norm doesn't make it right. As much as possible, parents shouldn't depend on their kids to support their families, because the consequences could be terrible.

Children need time to enjoy being children, but young performers are often deprived of this right. Also, they're exposed to some unsavory influences that could further rob them of the innocence and sense of wonder that they're entitled to. Yes, the money they earn would sure come in handy—but, at what cost?

So, the first rule is clear: Support your child's show biz career *only* if he really, truly wants it, and don't make him your family's breadwinner! If you follow this rule, your child's performing career could reap healthy, productive fruits. If not—uh-oh. *(To be continued)*

'Doubt' wins Drama Desk awards

NEW YORK—"Doubt," by John Patrick Shanley, was chosen best play of the New York theater season, and "Monty Python's Spamalot" was named best musical in awards given by the Drama Desk, an organization of theater journalists and critics.

"Doubt," already the recipient this year of the Pulitzer Prize for drama and the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for best play, was one of the group's big winners, along with the musical, "The Light in the Piazza." Each collected five awards.

Suspicious

Shanley's play, the tale of an authoritarian, parochial-school nun and her suspicions about a parish priest, took three of four acting honors in the play category.

They include prizes for its stars, Cherry Jones, who is the nun, and Brian F. O'Bryne, who portrays the priest, as well as for Adriane Lenox, who plays the distraught mother of a young student. Its director, Doug Hughes, was also honored.

Victoria Clark, who portrays an unhappy Southern matron on an Italian vacation in "The Light in the Piazza," was named best actress in a musical. Norbert Leo Butz, an obnoxious con man in "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," was chosen best actor-musical. *AP*

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9 RESERVED
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4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
5 UNLEASHED
6 LA VISA LOCA
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8 MADAGASCAR
9 BIKINI OPEN
10 CAN THIS BE LOVE
11 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
12 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

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7 STAR WARS: EPISODE III
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11 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
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4 RESERVED
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8 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
9 LA VISA LOCA
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7 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
8 MADAGASCAR
9 HOUSE OF WAX
10 LA VISA LOCA

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2 LA VISA LOCA
3 HOUSE OF WAX
4 UNLEASHED

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4 RESERVED

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3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 HOUSE OF WAX

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3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
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6 UNLEASHED

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2 ALONE IN THE DARK
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① MADAGASCAR
MTRCB: GP
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② STAR WARS III
MTRCB: GP
10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

③ HOUSE OF WAX
MTRCB: R-13
11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50

④ STAR WARS III
MTRCB: GP
12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00

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GP

2 MADAGASCAR
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7:35, 10:20
GP

3 STAR WARS III: REVENGE OF THE SITH
11:05, 2:05, 5:05,
8:05, 11:05
GP

4 HOUSE OF WAX
12:30, 3:05, 5:40,
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MADAGASCAR GP 11:00,1:00,3:00, 5:00,7:00,9:00
MADAGASCAR GP 11:50,1:50,3.50,7:50,9:50
STAR WARS: EPISODE III GP 12:30,3:30,6:30,9:30
UNLEASHED R13 11:45,1:55,4:05, 6:15,8:25,10.25
STAR WARS: EPISODE III GP 1:30,4:30,7.30,10:20

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CINEMA 5 UNLEASHED - R13 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50

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'Snick' debuts on Nickelodeon

GEAR up for Nickelodeon's new programming block, "Snick," hosted by Camilla Hansen. "Snick," short for "Saturday Nick," is a two-hour interactive show that allows tweens and young teenagers to participate in contests and Q and A sessions, and send text messages on-air.

"Snick" features "My Dad and the Rock Star," new episodes of "All Grown Up" and "Drake and Josh," and a new show, "Unfabulous," starring Emma Roberts, Julia Roberts' niece.

MONTAGE

Kids can also send in their favorite pictures and creative blogs to "Snick Pick." And there are two contests, Splat Hat and Grand Prize Roll On, where two kids can win up to $60 each. Catch "Snick" on Nickelodeon!

Award for Robinsons Recreation Corp.

Robinson Recreation Corp., the leisure company that operates the Dreamscape and Dream Zone amusement centers at Robinsons malls, was recently presented with the Most Outstanding Recreation Center National Award for 2005 by the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards Institute. RRC's marketing director, Dollie Bufi, accepted the award.

The institute's honors are awarded to companies that have undertaken the best marketing practices, leading to dominance, goodwill, customer confidence and market acceptability. Dreamscape is at Robinsons Galleria, while Dream Zone is at Robinsons Place Manila, Imus and Metro East, and Zap Zone in Cebu.

New talents

Veteran artist manager Bibsy Carballo has added five names to her stable of talents: Actor-director Miguel Castro, actress Kimberly Diaz, newscaster Candace Giron, 13-year-old singer Roanne Mallari and model-host Angel Maganto.

Carballo has been responsible for launching the careers of stars like Dawn Zulueta, Gretchen Barretto, Monsour del Rosario and Anna Fegi, and also manages the careers of Boots Anson Roa, Ricky Davao, Jackielou Blanco, Toti Fuentes, Bayang Barrios, etc. Call 721-0801 or 0917 899-1835.

MALLARI. Singer on the rise.

New eco-reality series

Animal Planet is looking for local participants to take part in an innovative new eco-reality series that the network is producing with WWF. The series will feature participants from all over the world, who will take on conservation challenges in Central America and Asia.

WWF experts will mentor the participants as they learn about the realities of conservation while dealing with extreme conditions, unfamiliar cultures and tight deadlines.

If you're from 18 to 35 years old, apply online at www.animalplanetasia.com until Monday, May 30.

'Autism Is a World'

Geraldine Wurzburg's Oscar-nominated documentary, "Autism Is a World," premieres on CNN at 6 p.m. today. The short-subject docu is a candid and compelling look into the mind of Sue Rubin, a 26-year-old Los Angeles woman living with autism. The production also features a dramatic reading by Julianna Margulies

Altar date

Lina Medianesta Palmes, eldest daughter of Pedro Sr. and Florita Palmes of San Enrique, Iloilo, will wed Dario Bangero, son of Juan and Lilia Bangero, in nuptials at the St. William Church in Passi City on June 6. While the couple hails from Panay, their romance bloomed in the Middle East, where both were assigned to different projects.

CITATION for RRC is received by Dollie Bufi (second from left), shown here with Dr. Felix Lao Jr., Fanny Serrano and Prof. Donald Lim.

BANGERO AND PALMES. Will tie the knot on June 6.

Curative natural wonders

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MOTHER Nature provides us with amazing wonders that benefit us.

For example, a cure for jellyfish stings is found right by the seashore. You'll find a vine that is often pulled out by beach owners. Its leaves are shaped like butterfly wings, but are more rounded at the tips.

To relieve pain from jellyfish stings, crush the leaves and apply them on the affected area. If you can't find the plant, you can resort to uropathy. Yes, urine has a curative effect that counteracts the effects of toxins.

Potent and clean

When you feel very hot and dehydrated, the best rehydration liquid is available from the coconut. Coconut water is so potent and clean that it can even be used as an intravenous fluid for persons hospitalized with diarrhea.

Another interesting piece of magic from Mother Nature: Getting rid of the durian fruit's odor. The deodorizing process involves the durian shell. Instead of washing with plain water, put the durian shell under the faucet and run water through it. Use this water to wash your mouth and hands to remove the durian odor.

The *malunggay* tree also possesses curative powers. The pod can lower blood pressure, while the leaves alleviate anemia.

In the insect world, there are interesting discoveries: For example, people usually run away from bees, but bee sting has been proven to relieve multiple sclerosis and arthritis!

Qualities

In fact, honey is a natural sweetener that surpasses the qualities of the ordinary table sugar. But, it doesn't only sweeten food—it also cures! It's applied on skin and scalp to hasten the healing of wounds and remove dandruff. A word of warning, however: don't leave it on the scalp overnight—or you might attract ants! Use it like a conditioner, and leave it on your scalp for a few minutes, then rinse.

Mother Nature provides cures and remedies. We should learn to use and appreciate her useful gifts for a healthier life!

Filmmakers . . .

From page A2-3

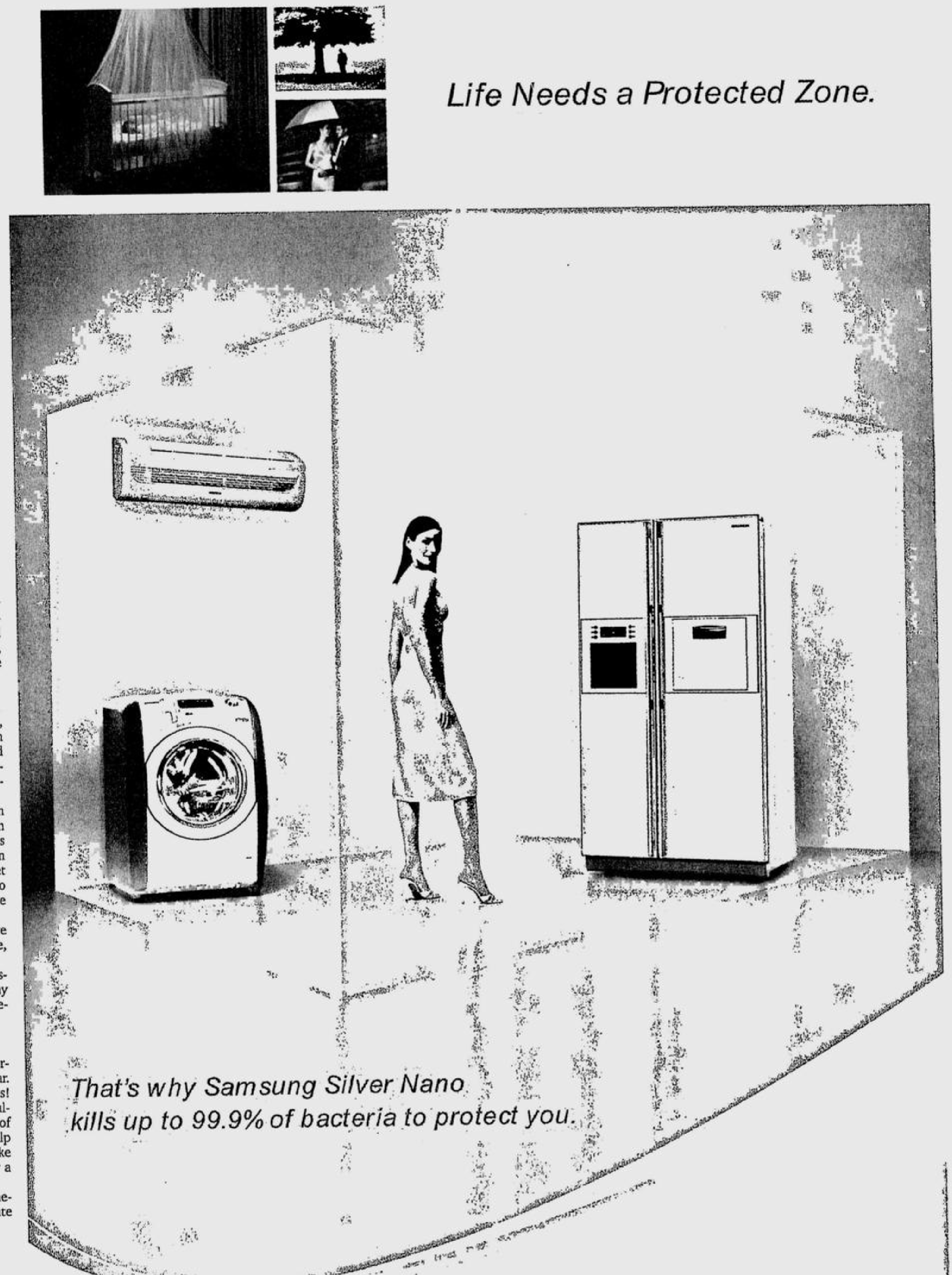
where George Washington got lost in one of his historic battles. The view at the entrance from the living room features this sight. But during autumn, the yard is magnificent, with outbursts of different hues of yellow, orange, red and brown."

Empty lot

"Serendipity" by director-photographer Henry Posadas was shot on an empty lot at 1 p.m. He printed the photograph on multiple-grade paper, and toned it in sepia using Infrared film.

Painter Elmer Borlongan used an underwater

FILMMAKERS/ A2-7



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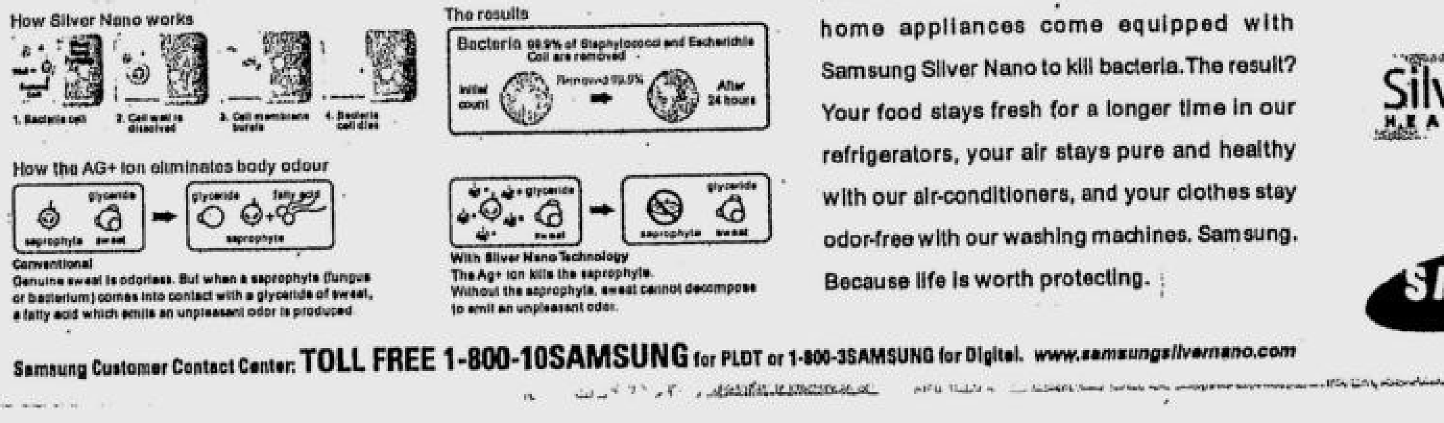

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	STAR WARS EP. 3	STAR WARS EP. 3	THX STAR WARS EP. 3 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	LA VISA LOCA	HOUSE OF WAX	MADAGASCAR	UNLEASHED
GB1 GREENBELT 1	UNLEASHED 10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35,9:45	STAR WARS EP. 3 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX STAR WARS EP. 3 1:50, 4:40, 10:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	THX STAR WARS EP. 3 1:20, 4:00, 6:40,9:30, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	UNLEASHED 2:35, 4:45, 6:55,9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	HOUSE OF WAX 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30,9:45, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	MADAGASCAR 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30,9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
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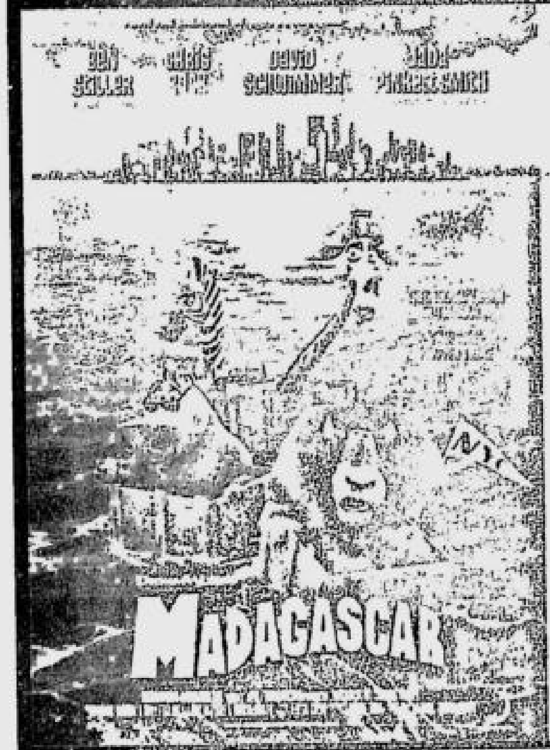

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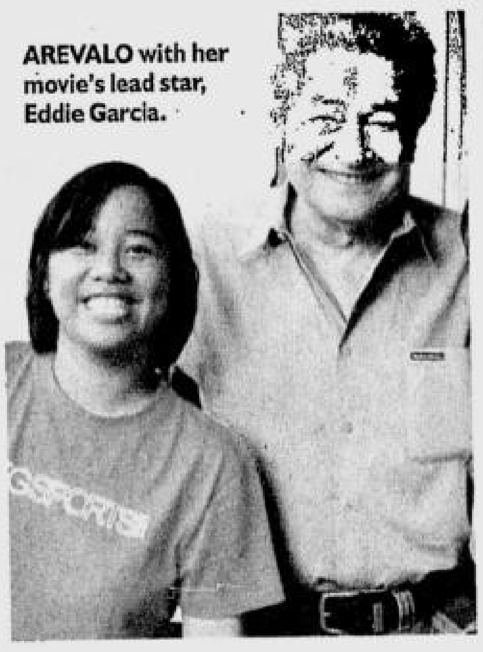
Rica Arevalo gears up for feature film debut

By Rito P. Asilo



AREVALO with her movie's lead star, Eddie Garcia.

WE recently sat down with filmmaker Rica Arevalo to discuss her anticipated feature-film debut, "ICU Bed #7," which will open at the Cinemalaya Film Festival in July. The young director, known for her emotion-driven, tragic-comic stories (the Film Development Foundation's award-winning scripts, "Pamilya" and "Mana," as well as the 2003 Palanca winner, "ICU Bed #7") on family life, insists that the industry doesn't have to dish up sexually provocative stories to come up with commercially-viable cinematic ventures.

Creative freedom

She shares, "I like the creative freedom filmmakers enjoy in indies—you don't have producers breathing down your neck telling you how to shoot a scene. Your vision as director and writer is not compromised by the need to play to an audience's whims. Of course, you want your effort to be seen by many people, but you don't do that by bowing down to the pressure of making movies that are more commercial than they are meaningful.

"I have a mind of my own, and I feel blessed that I have friends and mentors—like Doy del Mundo, Lee Meily, NUT—who believe in what I have to say as an artist. Since I don't like the concept of shopping my stories and selling my scripts for commercial purposes, these people have inspired me to persevere. They opened doors for me."

In "ICU Bed #7," however, Arevalo gets more than just the financial backing she needs to fully realize the leap her script takes to the big screen. A good, heartwarming story is the key, she adds. Indeed, when high-profile actors were offered roles in the domestic drama, they didn't need a lot of convincing because they liked the story.

The film's cast is an impressive list of veterans and thespians that include Eddie Garcia, Angel Aquino, Noni Buencamino and Irma Adlawan. In order to accommodate her busy actors' workload, however, the production had to carefully map out a shooting schedule agreeable to everyone.

High spirits

When we went to an overnight shoot during "ICU's" principal photography recently, the production was abuzz with excitement, and everyone was in high spirits despite the close-to-impossible shooting schedule. We were surprised to learn later that the film took just five days to shoot—without compromising quality! Eat your heart out, *pitu-pito* film producer!

Why did she join the Cinemalaya competition? "I remember Doy giving me a book with a note that said: '*Hinihintay na sa teatro ang iyong pelikula*.' NUT encouraged me to learn more about my craft, take workshops, write scripts and direct films, but he did more than that. I see Cinemalaya as an opportunity to apply what I have learned in the last 10 years.

"I have directed short films ("Pamana ni Lola," "Aninag sa Dapithapon," etc.) that were shown in film festivals abroad. Participating in a festival is an exhilarating experience—you realize that you're not alone in your filmmaking ideals, that there's a community of serious artists who speak the same language as you."

Entries

This early, Rica hopes that the movie will be received well. She has high hopes for the entries that made it to the finals, and wishes that they will help end the current slump in the local film industry.

She reflects: "The cast gambled on a young, dynamic team. I am humbled by *Tito* Eddie Garcia and the rest of the cast's willingness to share their talents with us. We had to deal with a lot of limitations—financial, logistical, etc.—but, it was a happy learning experience. I had to multi-task as writer, director and producer, but it was worth it!"

Filmmakers . . .

From page A2-5

Lomo camera to shoot "Aviva" and "Capones Maidens." Two girls take a dip in the waters off Capones Island to discover the wonders of underwater life. He attended a photo workshop at the Mowelfund Film Institute.

One of my favorite photos was cinematographer Miguel Fabie III's "Study #6," an abstract photograph with six images done in multiple exposures. He shot it with a Holga 120mm-format camera.

"Boso," a sexy black-comedy shot in digital film, has its director, Jon Red, presenting still photos from his film on a TV monitor.

Neil adds, "Every month, there will be an exhibit devoted to photography. I wanted to bring in photographers with varied styles, who work in film, painting, graphic design and animation. It is about time they have a space to showcase their artistic passion."

Viva launches four new faces

By Remy M. Umerez

FROM LEFT, Myke Caluma, Jona Lumbera, Nikki Bacolod and Dianne Castillo.

VIVA Artists Agency has signed up four of the finalists of ABS-CBN's recently concluded "Search for a Star in a Million."

The four young upstarts are: Nikki Bacolod, 15 years old, a high school junior from the Bible Baptist Christian Academy; Jona Lumbera, 15, from Ramon Magsaysay High School; Dianne Castillo, 15, winner of the Himig-Taal 2003 singing contest, and Myke Caluma, 18, grand prize winner of Robinson's Teen Pop Idol competition.

Top plum

We asked them how they felt about not being able to bag the top plum (which was won by Jerome Sala), and what lessons they learned from the experience:

Nikki said that, from the start, she knew that, in competitions, there would be winners and losers.

She was glad she landed in the top five. In fact, she was heavily favored to win the championship round.

She was happy to sing "Light of a Million Mornings" for her dad, who loves the song.

For Jona, dubbed the contest's "Glam Rocker," the experience made her realize that there are so many talented people out there. She has learned how to accept criticism with grace—even if it was very harsh, at times. It was a humbling experience for her!

Magic five

Dianne did not make it to the magic five, but she's happy just the same. She was also glad that the tilt hasn't affected her grades in school. Before joining the search, she requested her school for special arrangements, because she was a graduating student—an academic scholar at that! The school graciously granted her request. The contest taught her discipline and self-confidence.

On the other hand, Myke said he will miss the special bond he has forged with the other finalists. He shared that they never treated one another as competitors, but as a close-knit *barkada* who shared the same dream.

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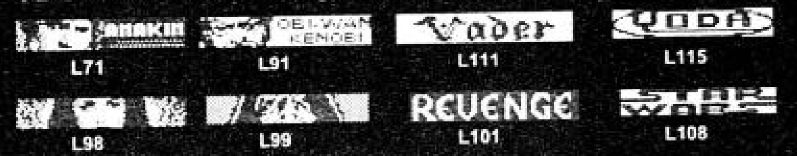
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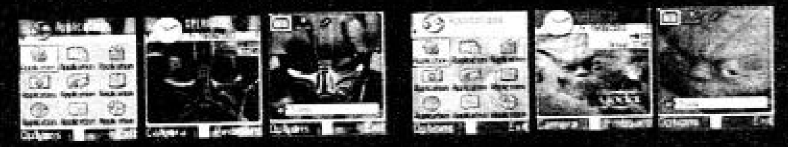

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A lot to love in Ashton Kutcher

By Nestor U. Torre

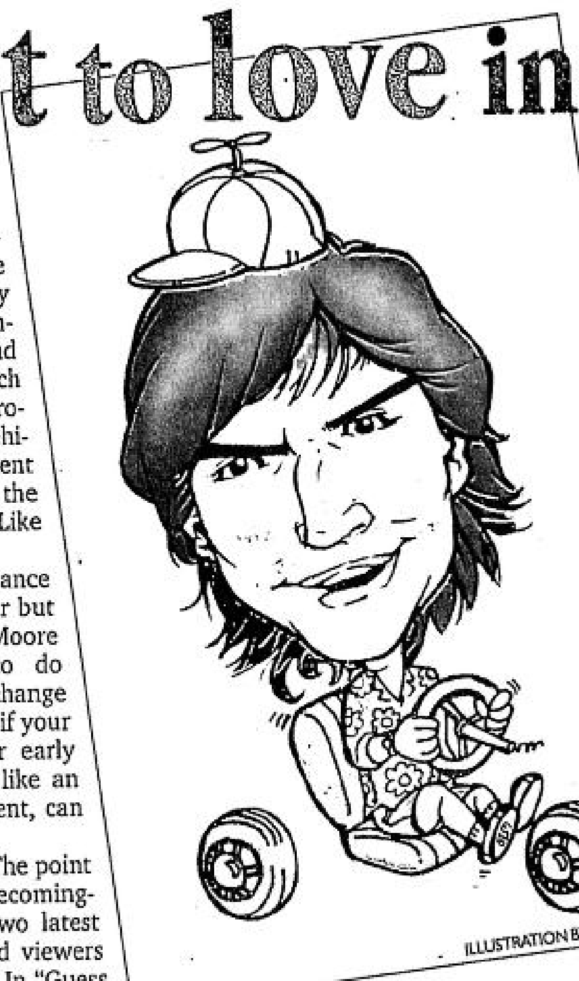
ILLUSTRATION BY LA MISTADES

PEET AND KUTCHER. "Love" is the passionate consequence of "like."

AFTER scruffy, madcap romps like "Dude, Where's My Car?," Ashton Kutcher has moved beyond grunge mode to much more promising romantic-comedy vehicles like the recent "Guess Who?" and the upcoming "A Lot Like Love."

Could his hot romance with the much older but still zaftig Demi Moore have something to do with his welcome change of image? After all, if your girlfriend is in her early 40s, you can't act like an overgrown adolescent, can you?

Well, whatever. The point is, Ashton is more becomingly mature in his two latest screen outings, and viewers like what they see. In "Guess Who?," he played the white boyfriend of Bernie Mac's daughter, they instantly got on each other's nerves—and racial tension was only one of the issues they had to contend with and settle.

Conflict

In time, their conflict included other members of the family, and Bernie's own marriage was on the rocks. Only when Ashton finally acted to stop his fiancée from walking out on his life did things get sorted out, and Bernie realized that he'd learned a lot about love from his would-be son-in-law.

Going by preview audiences' reactions, Kutcher is even better in "A Lot Like Love." In that new production, he has to act even older, because he is cast as a young man who takes seven long years to realize that his best female buddy (Amanda Peet) is also the love of his life (or should be).

It takes the two lead characters *that* long to come to their romantic senses because they start out as complete opposites: He's focused and goal-oriented; she's aimless and lives for today.

Couples

As they move in and out of each other's lives, they eventually discover what many happy couples have: that "love" should be the passionate consequence of "like."

The film is also a landmark vehicle for Amanda Peet, who has been biding her time for years in supporting roles in movies like "Something's Gotta Give." In "A Lot Like Love," Peet shows that she's more than ready to play the female lead in films, as she employs her innately sexy edginess to great effect.

If Peet sustains her career's new upward trajectory, she can look forward to being this screen generation's Meg Ryan, enlivening a series of romantic-comedy movies before eventually shifting to dramatic parts to reveal new aspects to her performing personality.

Romantic romps

As for Kutcher, he's already being bruited about as this generation's Tom Hanks. After all, Hanks also started out gangly but handsome in romantic romps like "Splash," before modifying his screen persona to underscore his out-and-out wackiness in "Big," his vulnerability in "Sleepless in Seattle," his versatility in "Philadelphia," his heroic qualities in "Apollo 13," his thespic verve in "Forrest Gump"—etc.!

Can Kutcher make that amazing career arc his own? Or, will he eventually lose steam and heart, and end up merely as this movie generation's Greg Kinnear? That second-lead specialist's status would be an anti-climax for a promising comer like Kutcher, so we hope he'll work his butt off to avoid that sad denouement!

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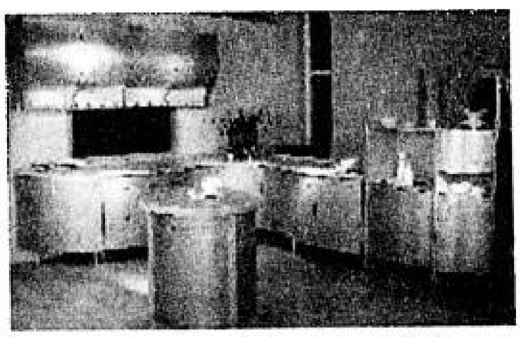

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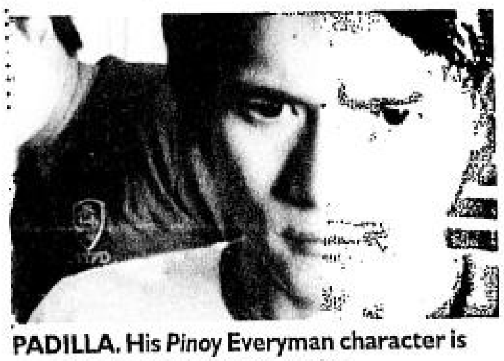
PADILLA. His *Pinoy* Everyman character is smart, loving, loyal, and speaks grammatically-correct English.

NOW SHOWING

Robin unleashes comic bite against Lucas, Li

By Rito P. Asilo

"La Visa Loca"
D: Mark Meily
S: Robin Padilla, Rufa Mae Quinto

EAGER to follow his fiancée to work and live in the States, limousine driver Jess Huson (Robin Padilla) will do anything—everything—to get a US visa.

Problem is, he hasn't had any luck so far, and he's getting increasingly frustrated about the repeated denials.

But, Jess sees a light at the end of the tunnel when he bumps into Nigel Adams (Paul Holme), host of a Discovery Channel-like TV program that chronicles the Pinoy's penchant for the religious, the bizarre, the superstitious and the occult.

Desperate to pump up his show's flagging ratings, Adams, whose brother-in-law runs a nursing home in the East Coast, is more than willing to recommend Jess, who has also trained as a nursing aide, as a caregiver—*if* the obsequious driver successfully convinces his embittered, hearing-impaired, Viagra-popping, hypertensive-diabetic father, Sancho (Johnny Delgado), to get nailed on the cross again, a Holy Week *panata* the older Huson observed many years ago so that his wife could get her US visa.

She *did* get her visa, alright, but has since abandoned her husband and son to marry her Caucasian employer!

Mark Meily adapts his Palanca-winning script ("Penitensiya Republic") for the big screen and delivers a winner—so far, the best local film we've seen this year!

The young, innovative director fills the screen with provocative, theme-driven, visual intimations of the Filipino psyche, and captures the nation's continuing struggle to emerge from the oppressive effects of poverty.

It's also admirable that Robin's Pinoy Everyman character, despite his misfortunes, hasn't been "dumbed" down: Jess may be morally ambivalent and only yearns for simple dreams, but he is smart, loving, loyal, and speaks grammatically-correct English.

The character consequently traverses the cinematic vista with a winking, unpreaching, but dead-on sarcasm through pop-culture references (the religious visionary who now

ROBIN/ A3-2

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Robin unleashes comic bite against Lucas, Li

CHRISTENSEN. Ambition and greed overwhlem good intentions.

From page A3-1

owns a beauty parlor, etc.).

While we feel ambivalent about the "convenient" choice of ending the filmmaker opts for his protagonists (otherwise, the result would have been more biting), the film is alternatingly poignant and heartbreaking without being schmaltzy, hilarious without being campy, and wins points with its glossy production values.

It features memorable performances from the entire cast anchored by Padilla, Delgado, Holme and Rufa Mae Quinto. Once again, Unitel's Tony Gloria proves that his films' protagonists don't have to cry gallons of tears to touch the heartstrings, or resort to slapstick humor to tickle the funny bone.

"Star Wars, Episode 3: Revenge of the Sith"

D: George Lucas
S: Ewan McGregor, Hayden Christensen, Natalie Portman

Don't miss the final installment of George Lucas' 28-year-old franchise as the sci-fi saga comes full circle in the darkest—and the best—of the prequels. Political intrigue, ambition and a doomed love affair complicate the narrative flow.

The film traces how Anakin Skywalker loses his way to the dark side as he wrestles for power, and struggles to keep his sanity intact—against a damning obsession to change his fate.

The "birth" of Darth Vader is made even more engaging by the violence that ensues onscreen, as familiar iconic characters (R2D2, C3PO, Chewbacca, the great warrior Yoda) take their bows in this final prequel, in which Lucas demonstrates how ambition and greed overwhelm good intentions.

When Obi Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) says, "If you are not with me, you're my enemy!," you don't have to rack your brain thinking why the line sounds familiar. Right, Mr. Bush?

Yes, it's logical—even fun—to nitpick about a story we're all so familiar with. After all, we grew up wielding plastic light sabers and laughing at Princess Leia's silly double-bun hairdo (which Natalie Portman wears in the movie, as well).

But, the persuasiveness of our arguments and quibbles about the franchise's strengths and weaknesses becomes insubstantial when we think of how much the "Star Wars" story has shaped young, impressionable minds, and filled our collective imagination with the concepts of good and evil for three decades now.

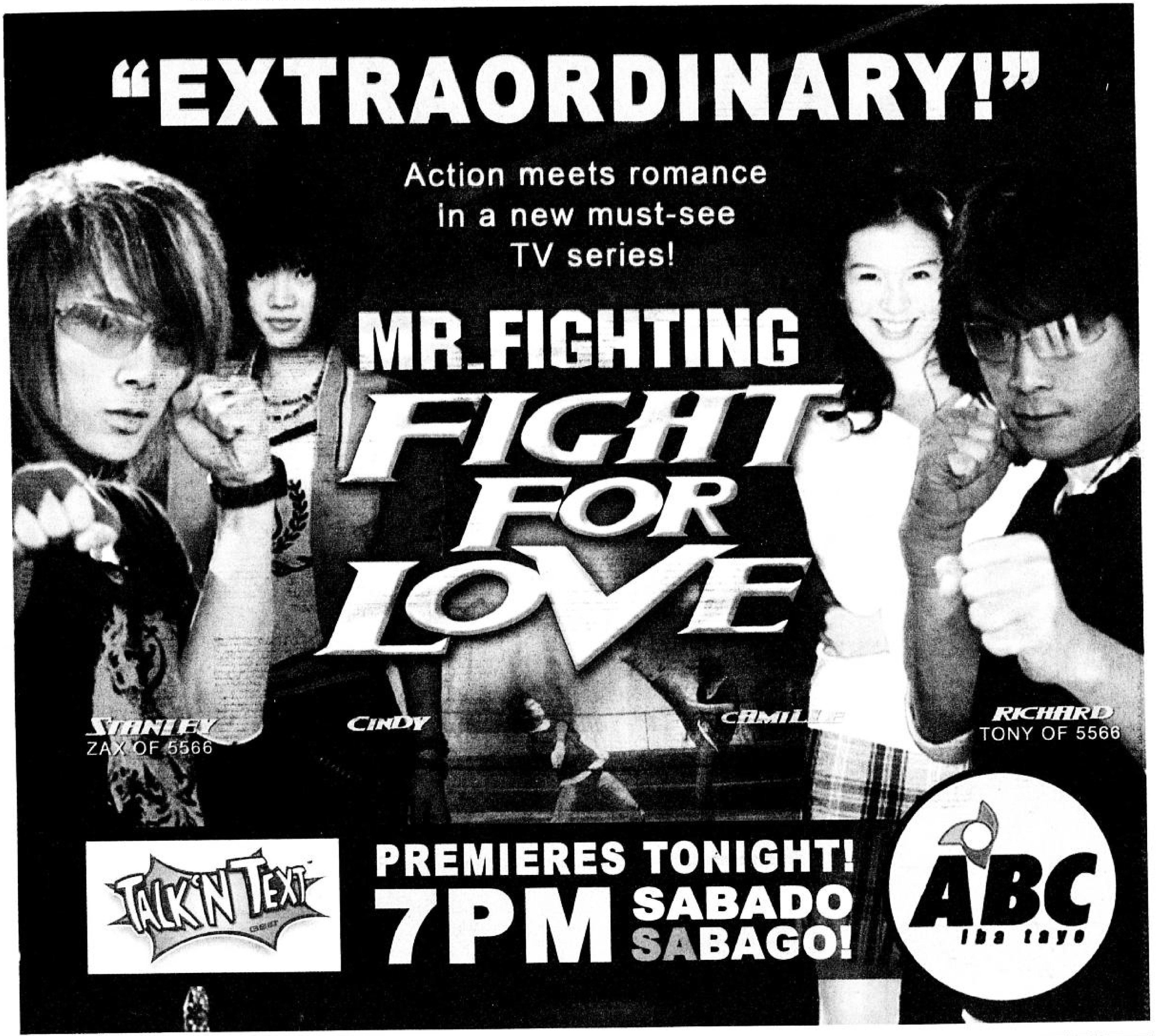
With focused, understated performances, dazzling battle scenes; and a social and political backdrop that mirrors the political climate of the current world order, Lucas bids his saga goodbye—and leaves the big screen in a blaze of glory!

"Unleashed"

D: Louis Leterrier
S: Jet Li, Morgan Freeman

French director Louis Leterrier ("The Transporter") unleashes a pleasant cinematic surprise as he adeptly merges high-flying action and absorbing drama in a film based on Luc Besson's script about

ROBIN/ A3-3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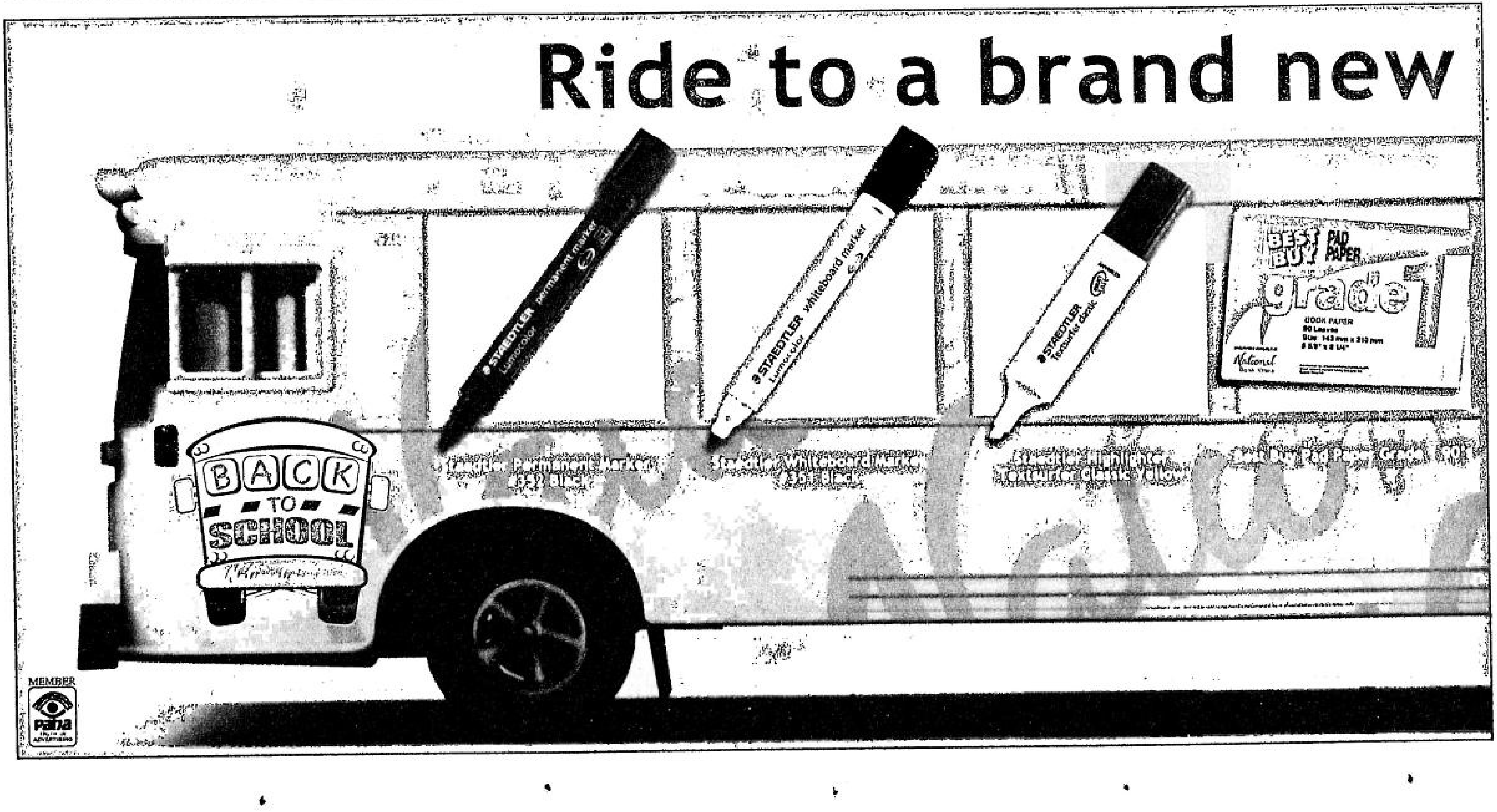
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Robin unleashes . . .

• From page A3-2

Danny (Jet Li), a man locked away in a grate with just a blanket, a worn-out teddy bear and an alphabet picture book—his only links to a sketchy childhood.

Wearing a metallic neck brace, Danny is trained by a Glasgow mobster, Bart (Bob Hoskins), to attack without mercy like a ferocious watchdog when his collar is removed. But, he is shaken from his brainwashed existence when he meets a blind piano tuner, Sam (Morgan Freeman), who shows him rare acts of kindness. When Danny hears Sam say, "Please," his world is turned upside down!

After Bart is ambushed by a rival gang, Danny escapes and finds refuge in Sam and his stepdaughter, Victoria (Kerry Condon), who help him rediscover the simple joys of humanity—shopping, cooking, picking a ripe fruit, eating ice cream, and his first kiss! With Mozart's haunting "Sonata No.11 in A Major" constantly playing in his head, he unlocks unpleasant memories as he unveils a checkered past. Then, his old boss finds him—and he wants Danny back!

With an intriguing script, a winning cast and unapologetically brutal, skillfully-choreographed fight scenes (courtesy of "The Matrix's" Yuen Wo Ping), Leterrier delivers broodingly provocative allegorical insights into blind subservience and man's inherent need for freedom.

Street festival

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

NICANOR Garcia st. in Bel Air, Makati was formerly known as Reposo st., meaning peaceful repose, in deference to the souls interred at the South Cemetery.

Fine dining

Presently, Reposo is a center for arts, crafts and fine dining. Owners of establishments dotting both sides of the road have banded together as Grupo Reposo, to make this street known as a destination for homemakers, interior designers, art collectors and artists.

Grupo Reposo, put together by Ed Soler of Galerie Astra, will mount a street festival with "vendors" setting up tents along the stretch of Constellation and Jupiter streets, to sell arts, crafts and food. The road will be closed to vehicular traffic from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on May 28 and 29.

Events: simultaneous launch of art exhibits and sale at Galerie Astra, Gallery BiG, Artwalk Gallery, Ricco-Renzo Gallery and ARIAS Gallery at LRI Business Plaza.

Sale

Mid-year sale until June 6 at LRI Business Plaza.

Mandy Navasero Photo Studio, at Rm. 227, LRI Business Plaza, offers big discounts for individual or family portrait, with one 8 x 10 color print.

Lecture Series on Art, 2 to 6 p.m., May 28 will be held at Alliance Francaise, open free to the public ("Critique on Modern Philippine Art" by Cid Reyes, "Art Exchange Between France and the Philippines" by Philippe Normand, "The Artist and His Art" by Egai Fernandez, and "Active Imagination: Art and Psyche" by Rose Marie Yenko).

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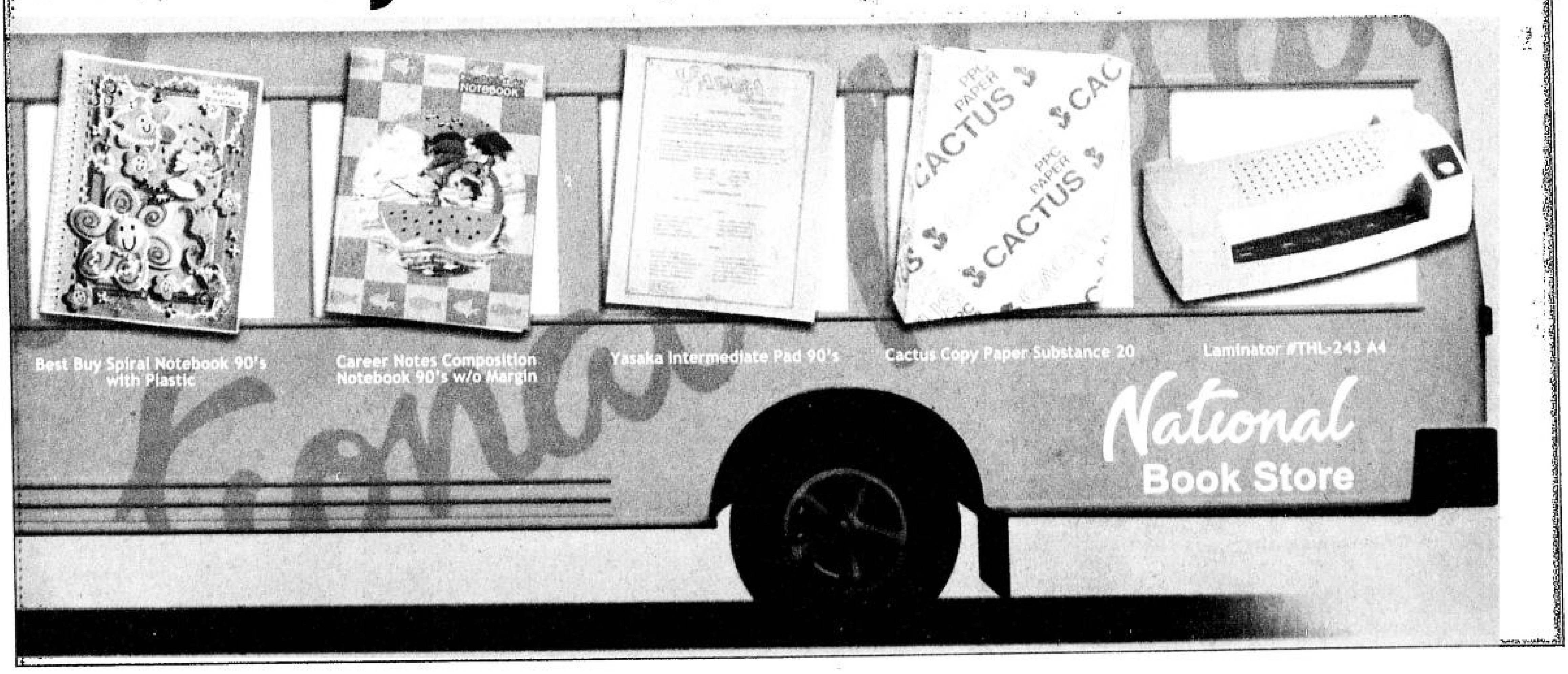
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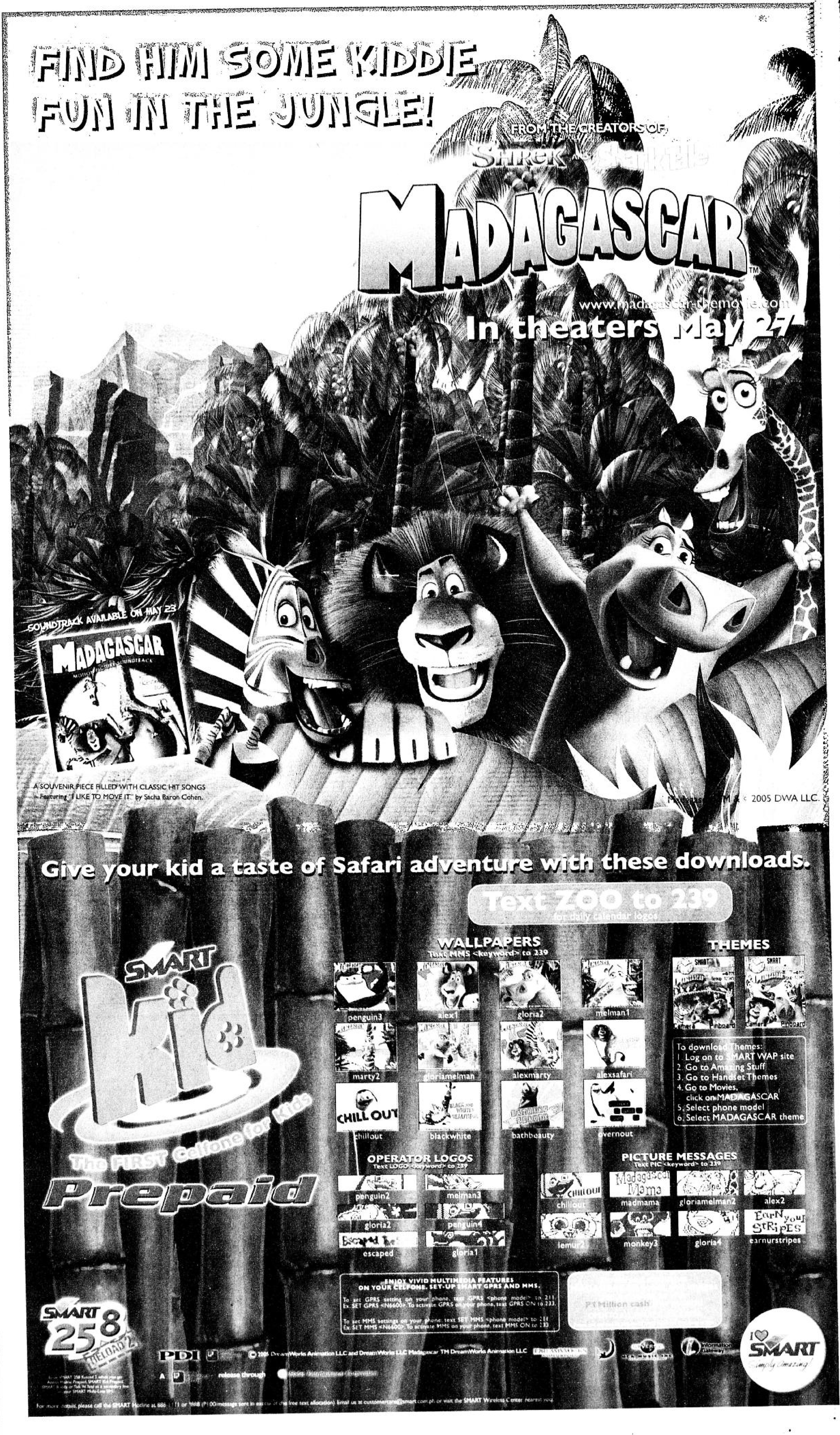
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SATURDAY Special

Garbage's 'Bleed Like Me' is worth the wait

By Noelani Torre

GARBAGE. Great sense of accomplishment.

"WE'RE all giddy with relief, excitement and a great sense of accomplishment," said Garbage vocalist Shirley Manson when the band's much-awaited fourth album, "Bleed Like Me," was finally completed. And when you've heard what they all had to go through in order to put this 11-track CD together, you'll agree with us that they've earned the right to be as giddy as they want to be.

The band's last release—2001's "Beautiful Garbage"—was a commercial disappointment, and the four years that followed haven't exactly been easy. Drummer-guitarist Butch Vig came down with a serious case of hepatitis A; guitarists and synth-men Steve Marker and Duke Erikson got caught up in family affairs; and singer Manson broke up with her husband and nearly lost her voice—she had to undergo surgery to remove a cyst on her vocal chord.

Creative disagreements

The band says that it was their creative disagreements that really broke them down, resulting in Vig's breaking away from the group in the middle of recording.

"On a psychological level, my heart just wasn't in it," explains Vig. "It was like, 'I gotta go.' If we're gonna finish this record, we gotta take a break and rebuild the creative juices."

He makes it sound like it was just a vacation, but Marker and Manson state that it was actually a break-up, and according to Erikson, things "got pretty dark."

Common bond

"All four of us might have been willing to just let it go," he says. "No one was agreeing on the direction of the music—at different times, a band member would come up with stuff, but the other three wouldn't be on board. When you lose that common bond of the music, you've got nothing."

Obviously, they managed to find that common bond again, and the result is an album that reminds us why we bother waiting around for new Garbage material in the first place. Though they're known for their techno-rock sound, the foursome decided to pare down the electronic effects this time around, and turn up the volume on their guitars' amps instead.

It makes for a guitar-driven, big-rock sound that brings to mind the post-Nirvana feel of the mid-90s—the same period that gave birth to the band's self-titled debut.

Speaking of Nirvana, Vig is well-known for having helmed their widely-influential "Nevermind," as well as the Smashing Pumpkins' "Gish" and discs by bands like Sonic Youth and L7.

Ghost of Nirvana

The ghost of Nirvana also manifests itself via the person of former drummer and Foo Fighters frontman Dave Grohl, whose furious drums in opening track "Bad Boyfriend" help make this song sound as big as it does. Other guest artists here include bassist Justin Meldal-Johnson (Beck) and drummer Matt Walker (Filter, Smashing Pumpkins), who plays on seven of the 11 tracks.

The alt-rock flavor of this album should come as no surprise then, though we reassure you that "Bleed Like Me" is no mere rehashing of the themes of their youth. Sure, Manson mostly sings about the same, old things—bad relationships, desire, despair, dysfunctional people, revolution—but she's not doing it just so she can sound like a bad-ass rocker.

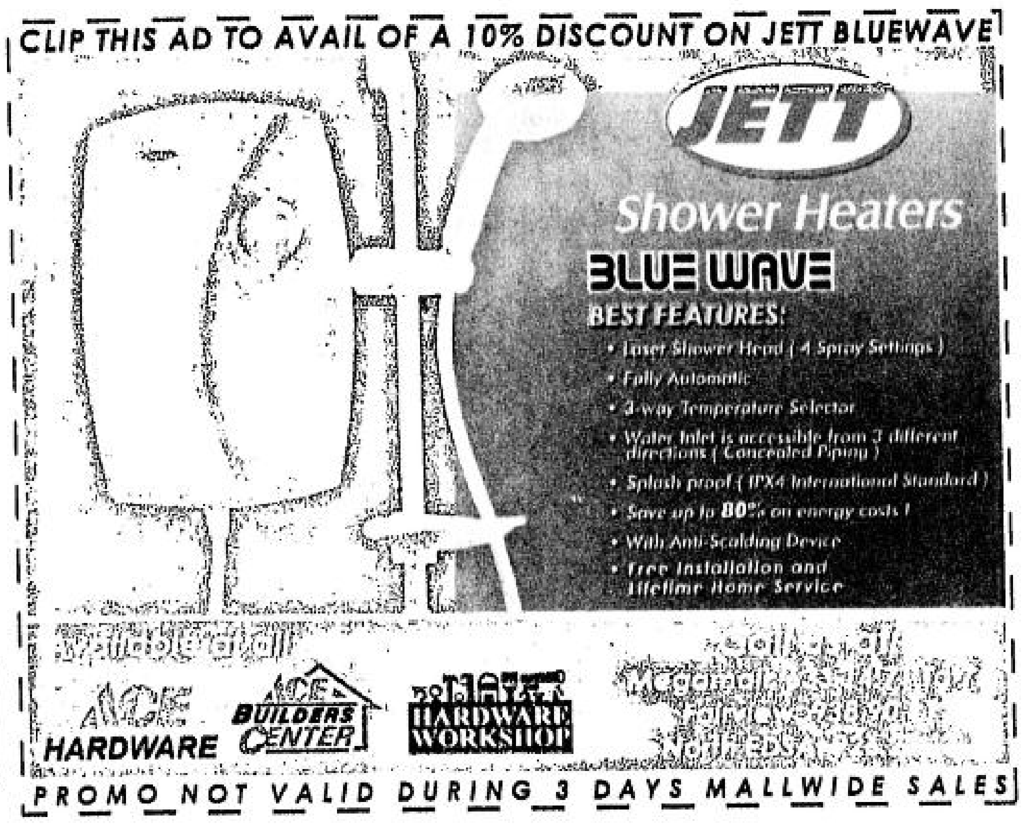
Most real-sounding album

In fact, this is probably the most real-sounding album the band's ever made. You can practically hear Manson flaying her own flesh here, and it makes you get more involved in the material—an effect that their earlier records couldn't achieve.

Take title track "Bleed Like Me." Arguably the best song in the playlist, it's a hook-laden semi-confessional number that recalls Lou Reed's "Walk on the Wild Side," and acquaints us with such characters as Avalanche, who "starves herself to rid herself of sin," Chrissie who's "trying to figure out if he's a girl or a boy," and Doodle "who takes dad's scissors to her skin.

Manson herself used to be a cutter, and when she sings "You should see my scars" in that strangely angelic voice, you know she's laying herself bare.

This and other songs in the playlist like "Why Do You Love Me," "Metal Heart," "Right Between the Eyes," and "Run Baby Run" make our four years' wait worthwhile. ("Bleed Like Me" was produced by Garbage, with John Kin on track 1, and is released by A&E Records and Warner Music.)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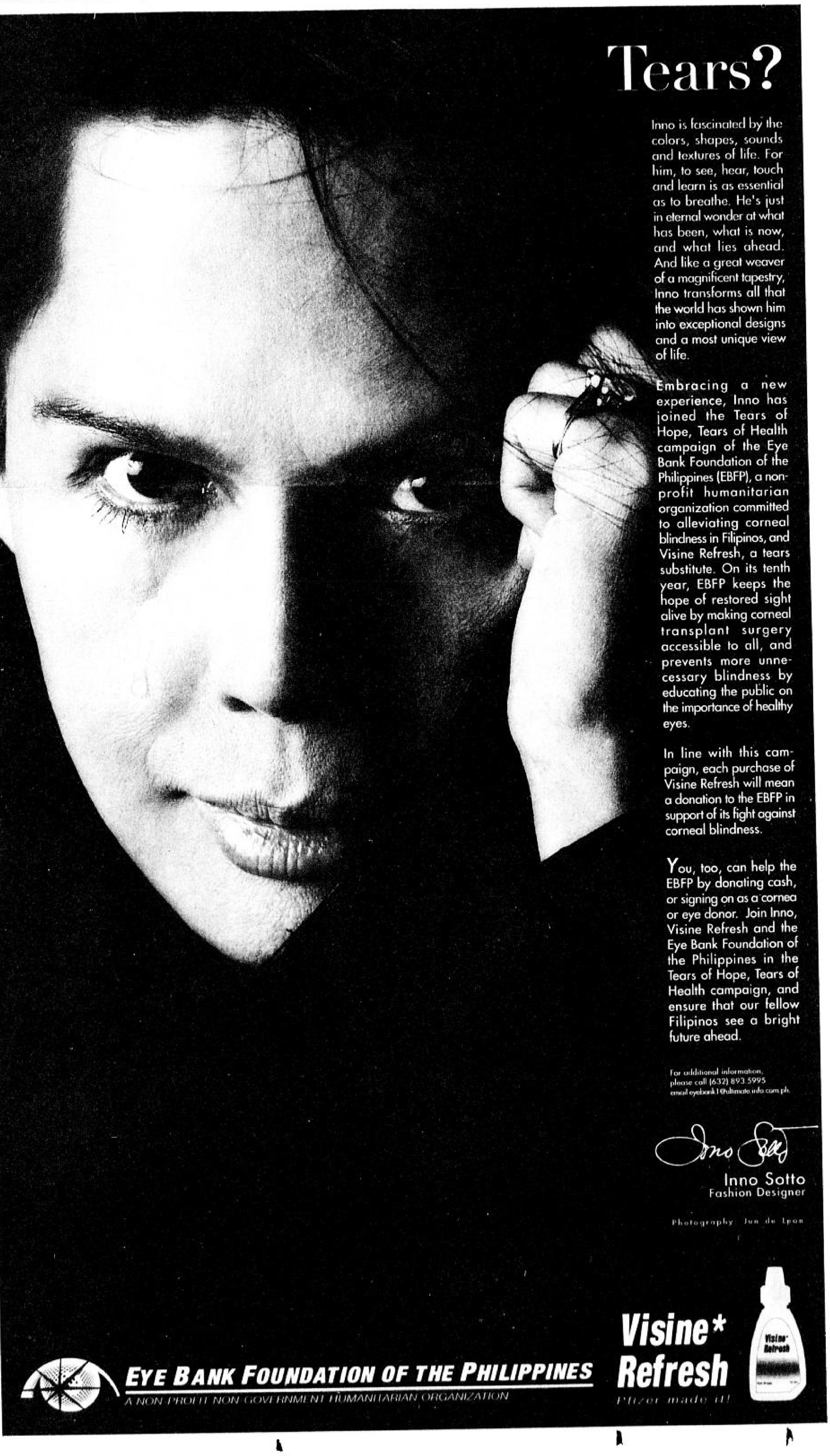
Tears?

Inno is fascinated by the colors, shapes, sounds and textures of life. For him, to see, hear, touch and learn is as essential as to breathe. He's just in eternal wonder at what has been, what is now, and what lies ahead. And like a great weaver of a magnificent tapestry, Inno transforms all that the world has shown him into exceptional designs and a most unique view of life.

Embracing a new experience, Inno has joined the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

In line with this campaign, each purchase of Visine Refresh will mean a donation to the EBFP in support of its fight against corneal blindness.

You, too, can help the EBFP by donating cash, or signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Inno, Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.

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Redford's Sundance to launch theaters for indies, foreign features

SALT LAKE CITY—Robert Redford's The Sundance Group will launch Sundance Cinemas, a movie-theater chain for independent, documentary and foreign-language films.

"Anything which helps new and interesting voices in the cultural realm reach more people can only enrich the experience of artists, audiences and communities," Redford said. Other programming will include shorts, filmmaker interviews and public fora.

Sundance Cinemas will be operated by the theater management team of Paul Richardson and Vert Manzari. The pair has worked together since starting an exhibition theater in 1975. That enterprise was merged with Landmark Theaters in 1982, growing into the largest art theater circuit in the country. Richardson and Manzari left Landmark in 2004.

Locations

Manzari said Sundance Cinemas is looking nationally for locations.

"Drawing on collective long-term relationships in the independent film and festival communities as well as those in the realm of distribution, we feel Sundance Cinemas will be highly successful in crafting a new and different experience for audiences," Manzari said.

Redford founded The Sundance Group in 1988 to oversee his ownership interests in Sundance Village, Sundance Catalog and Sundance Channel, as well as his involvement in the not-for-profit Sundance Institute, Sundance Film Festival and North Fork Preservation Alliance. *AP*

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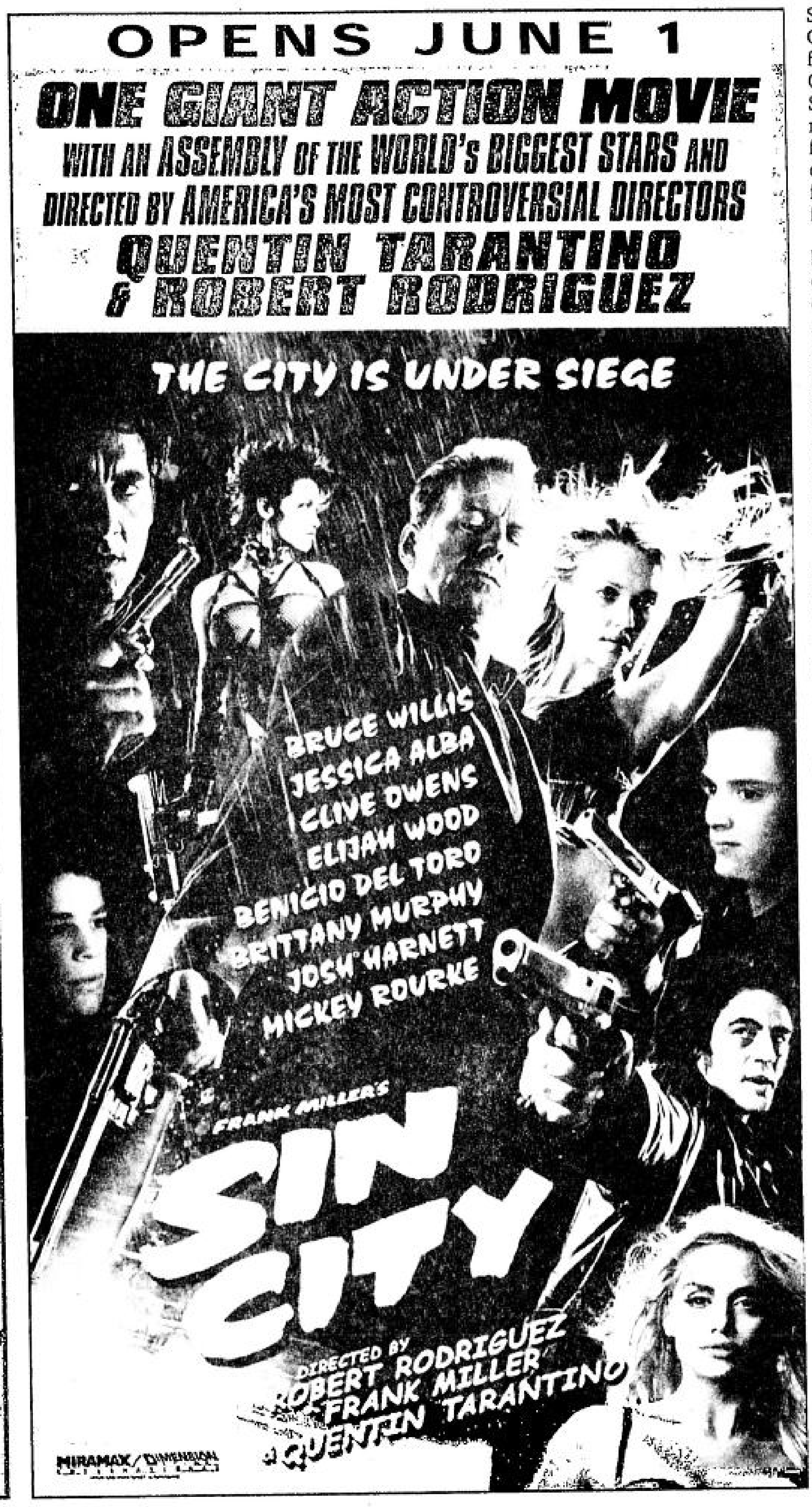
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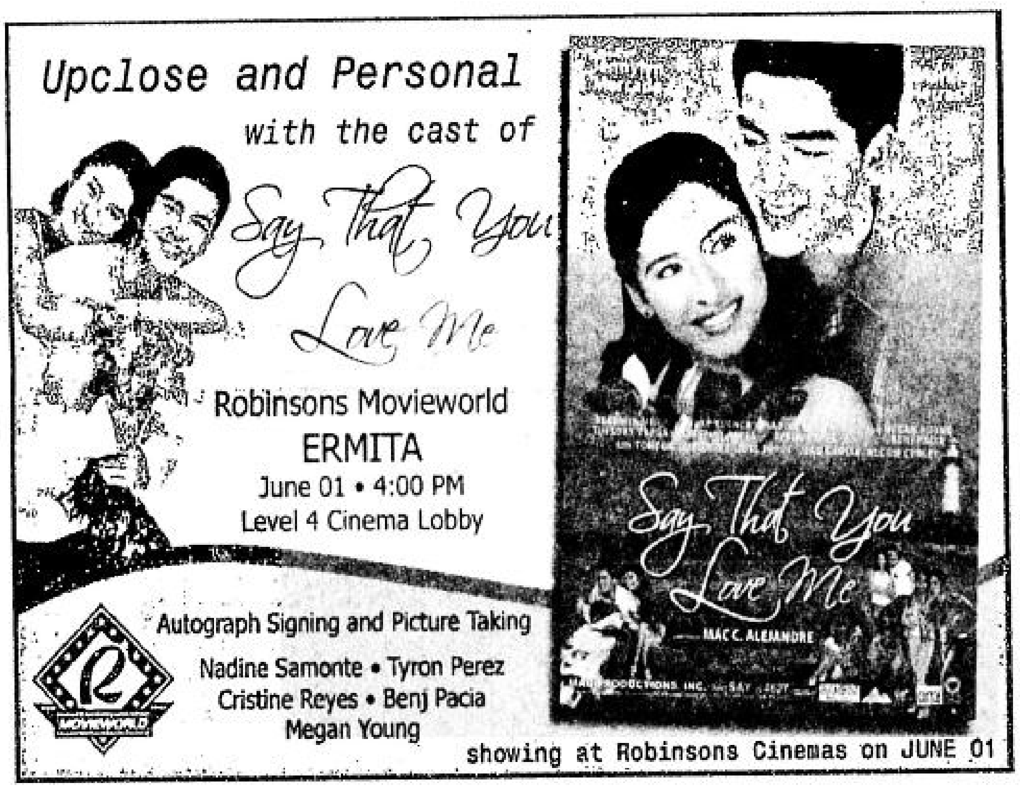
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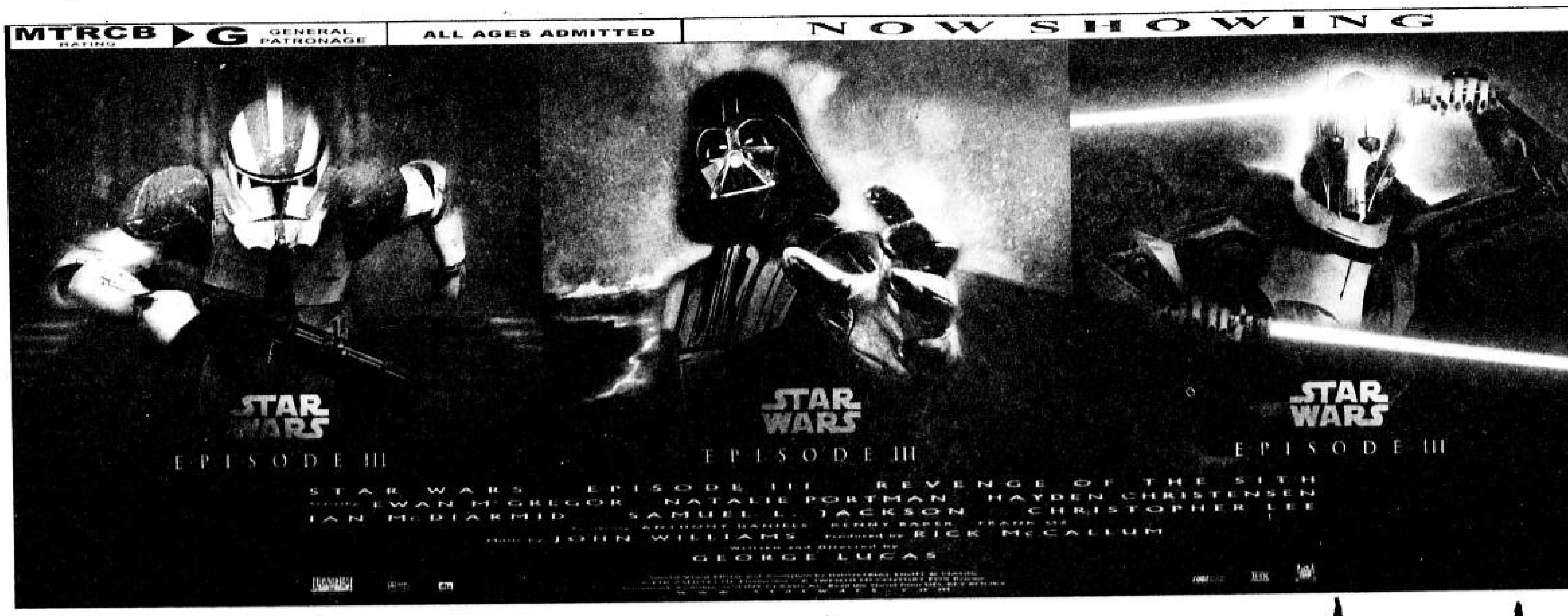
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Filipino priest initiates radio project in Brazil

By Ronald G. Mangubat

FOR almost nine years now, the Amazon jungles of Brazil have been the home of Fr. Bobby Ebisa, SVD, a Filipino priest doing missionary work in Northern Brazil.

Serving a parish that covers 160 communities, one of Fr. Bobby's problems is traveling great distances in order to visit each community. And because 47 of these communities are located along the muddy Amazon River, half of the year, these places are practically submerged in water and are almost impossible to reach!

Potential for evangelization

Then, an idea hit him: Why not tap radio's potential for evangelization? After all, Fr. Bobby has the right credentials to initiate a radio program: He has a Masters of Science degree in development communication from UP Los Baños. The thirtysomething priest also had intensive training in community broadcasting at UP.

"So, I started to plan," Fr. Bobby told this writer during his recent visit to the Philippines. "There was an existing radio station in Para called Radio Ximango. I tapped the station to reach those communities."

The first thing Fr. Bobby did was to convince his four SVD companions regarding the feasibility of producing a radio program. "I'm the only Filipino priest there—the others are from Papua New Guinea, Poland, Ireland and Brazil. They were supportive of my plan from the very start."

But, who would pay for the expensive airtime? Fr. Bobby recalled: "We thought of knocking on the doors of local businessmen. Since most of them were Catholics, they didn't need much convincing."

Fr. Bobby handpicked six volunteer parishioners and trained them in basic broadcasting. They later made up the show's production team.

In May 2002, "Rádio Communitária de Alenquer" or Community Radio of Alenquer went on the air. "It was Mother's Day, and we celebrated the Holy Mass over the radio. This was followed by a magazine program, which I also conceptualized," Fr. Bobby said.

Language

Aired live in Portuguese, a language which Fr. Bobby has mastered over the years, the two-and-a-half-hour program became a venue to learn basic information about nearby communities. "In this area, there are still places with no electricity. The literacy rate is low. So, I invited the leaders of communities to discuss the history, culture and customs of their respective bailiwicks. It became a hit, and the feedback has been overwhelming."

FR. Ebisa, SVD, (third from left) with other missionary priests from Papua New Guinea, Ireland, Poland and Brazil.

Captive audience

To ensure a captive audience, Fr. Bobby also tapped a German funding agency to distribute radio sets to those communities. People eagerly tuned in.

"Later on, I thought of replicating the experience in a smaller government station and soon, another program, "Associaçao de Rádio Communitária de Alenquer," was launched. "This show has a smaller reach, but it has become a popular venue for spreading the word of God."

His parishioners knew that Fr. Bobby is a Filipino, but many of them didn't know exactly where the Philippines was on the map. "I always had to explain that it is very far from Brazil. Some of them would even ask me: 'Is it near Chile?' I told them, 'No, it's even farther,'" he laughs.

Indeed, through the potency of the radio medium, and through persistence, Fr. Bobby has already built a community of communities in his parish in Alenquer, Para, Brazil.

Vision

It took him nine years to realize his vision of bringing the word of God closer to the people. When he visits a community, he's treated like a star. "Just seeing them smile brings real joy. They may be poor, but they are happy in spirit. I do get homesick at times, but I've also learned to love my life in Brazil," he mused.

THE SUCHIANCOS. Happy to share what they have.

Learning by example

By Behn Cervantes

THE UPSILON Sigma Phi, UP's oldest fraternity, has found an alternative to hazing during the initiation of new members. Danny Gozo, president of the Upsilon's alumni board, recommended to hook up the fraternity with the Gawad Kalinga group of Couples for Christ in its admirable program to build homes for the homeless. The suggestion was quickly approved.

So, one Sunday morning, chairman Doni Altura and resident members assembled to participate in this endeavor. Their destination: Payatas.

Endeavor

The board members felt that the admirable endeavor should be shared with their families.

The experience became a life-changing event for the members of the fraternity and for their children, who were exposed to a different reality. The seemingly innocent Sunday outing empowered all of them to become active participants in social change.

I asked the parents why they brought their kids, and sought the children's thoughts on the experience:

They came up with these golden nuggets:

What did you want your children to learn from this experience?

Dimples and Peter Suchianco: We wanted a worthwhile project that the family could undertake—which the underprivileged could benefit from. Children should see how the poor live—that they too can be happy even if they have no material wealth.

Maxine Suchianco, 4: I saw children dancing.

What did you think of the work?

Alexie Suchianco, 7: It was fun because I was able to help somebody.

Dimples and Peter: More importantly, we wanted Alexie and Maxine to learn how to share what they have. Instead of watching TV or eating ice cream in the comfort of their home, they can spend their spare time helping the underprivileged.

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Murders most foul

By Nestor U. Torre

PEOPLE are murdered by the thousands every single day. But, when either the suspected killer or the victim is famous or notorious, *and* the case is not solved to the public's psychic satisfaction, the murder assumes larger-than-life and even totemic proportions.

From May 30 to June 3, Discovery Channel is highlighting such "murders most foul" in "Deadly Reputations" (10 p.m.). The limited series leads off on May 30 with "Unsolved History: O.J. Simpson." The program pieces together the forensic evidence surrounding the June 12, 1994 murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, and investigates American football legend and actor O.J. Simpson's potential role in their deaths.

Mysterious death

Reaching even further back into the past, the May 31 program, on the mysterious death of Marilyn Monroe, blows away the clouds of alleged conspiracy, and reveals the facts surrounding the "probable suicide" of the stunning blonde bombshell.

On June 1, the focus is on Robert F. Kennedy. In 1968, he was mortally shot three times, and the FBI and Los Angeles Police Department, after an extensive investigation, concluded that a young Palestinian, Sirhan Sirhan, was responsible for the senator and probable future US presidential candidate's murder. But, unanswered questions continue to cast doubt on this official verdict.

Comprehensive

The program presents a comprehensive picture of RFK's assassination through the use of a recreated scene of the crime, a ballistics examination and laser trajectories, in the hope of answering the question: Did Sirhan act alone, or was there an entire conspiracy team involved?

On June 2, the program zeroes in on Princess Diana's still controversial demise. A two-year investigation concluded that Diana's death was caused by dangerous driving, compounded by the driver's alcohol consumption. But, the public didn't buy that explanation.

In this episode, the series' forensic team goes to France to examine the crash site, stunt drivers perform tests with the vehicles involved, and pathologists and doctors study the passengers' injuries.

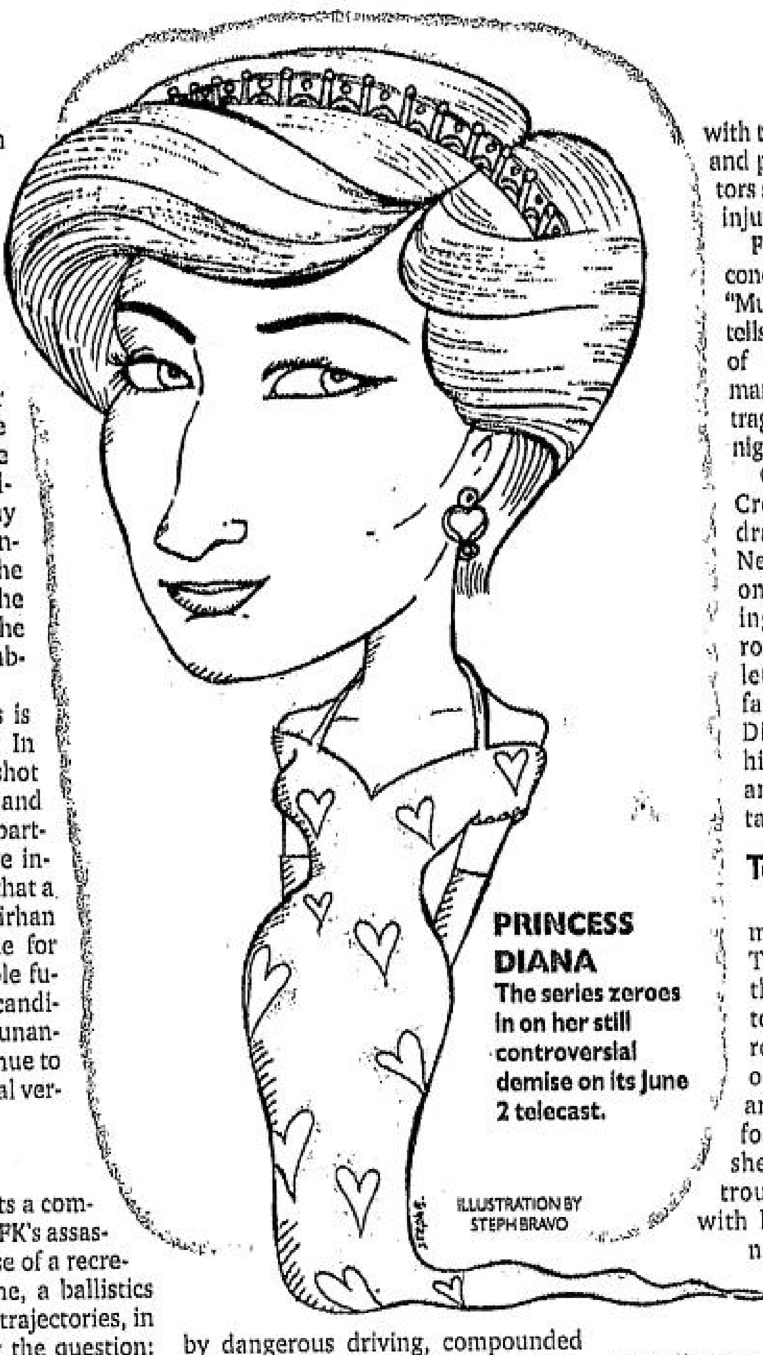
Finally, on June 3, the concluding episode, "Murder Most Royal," tells the chilling true story of how a fairytale romance sparked a family tragedy and a national nightmare.

On June 1, 2001, Crown Prince Dipendra, next in line to the Nepalese throne, went on a rampage, spraying the palace billiards room with bullets—and killing nine family members! Dipendra then shot himself in the head, and died in the hospital days later.

Testimony

Why did the royal massacre take place? The program answers that key question with testimony from royal relatives and survivors of the tragedy, British aristocrats, friends and former teachers. They shed light on Dipendra's troubled relationship with his mother, his fascination with guns, and the fatal night itself.

Three of the five "Deadly Reputations" episodes are new installments of the successful "Unsolved History" franchise, while the Diana and Prince Dipendra programs are encore presentations.



PRINCESS DIANA The series zeroes in on her still controversial demise on its June 2 telecast.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

'Life's a Joke' sends mixed signals

By Noelani Torre

"OH, no, not another Creed wannabe!"—this was our first thought 30 seconds into Fil-Am band The Speaks' debut album, "Life's a Joke." Not that wanting to sound like Creed is such a terrible thing, but then it's what every other starting rock band out there seems to want as well. What's more, Creed itself is a Pearl Jam wannabe—and you can only tolerate so much aspiration before you start looking for signs of originality!

Luckily for The Speaks, they sing and play decently enough, so at least they'll escape the ignonimous fate of being branded wannabes whose desire far exceeds their talent.

Pinoy descent

Composed of Rafael Toledo on vocals, Jerry Delino on bass, Johnny Abelende on drums, Siegfried Fuster on lead guitar, and Archie dela Cruz on guitar, The Speaks is a D.C.-based fivesome, all of whom are of Pinoy descent. They've been doing the rock and roll thing for six years now, and even though "Life's a Joke" was only released recently, they've already managed to make a name for themselves.

They've won two rather high-profile music competitions in the US—2003's D.C. Hard Rock Café/SoBe "Ultimate Altitude Buzz" and JAXX Battle of the Bands—and finished second in the national finals of the former.

Fan base

They've apparently amassed a considerable fan base as well, what with the readers of the Washington Post naming them the region's No. 2 local band, and their single, "Life's a Joke," staying No. 1 for eight weeks on the UK's online radio charts.

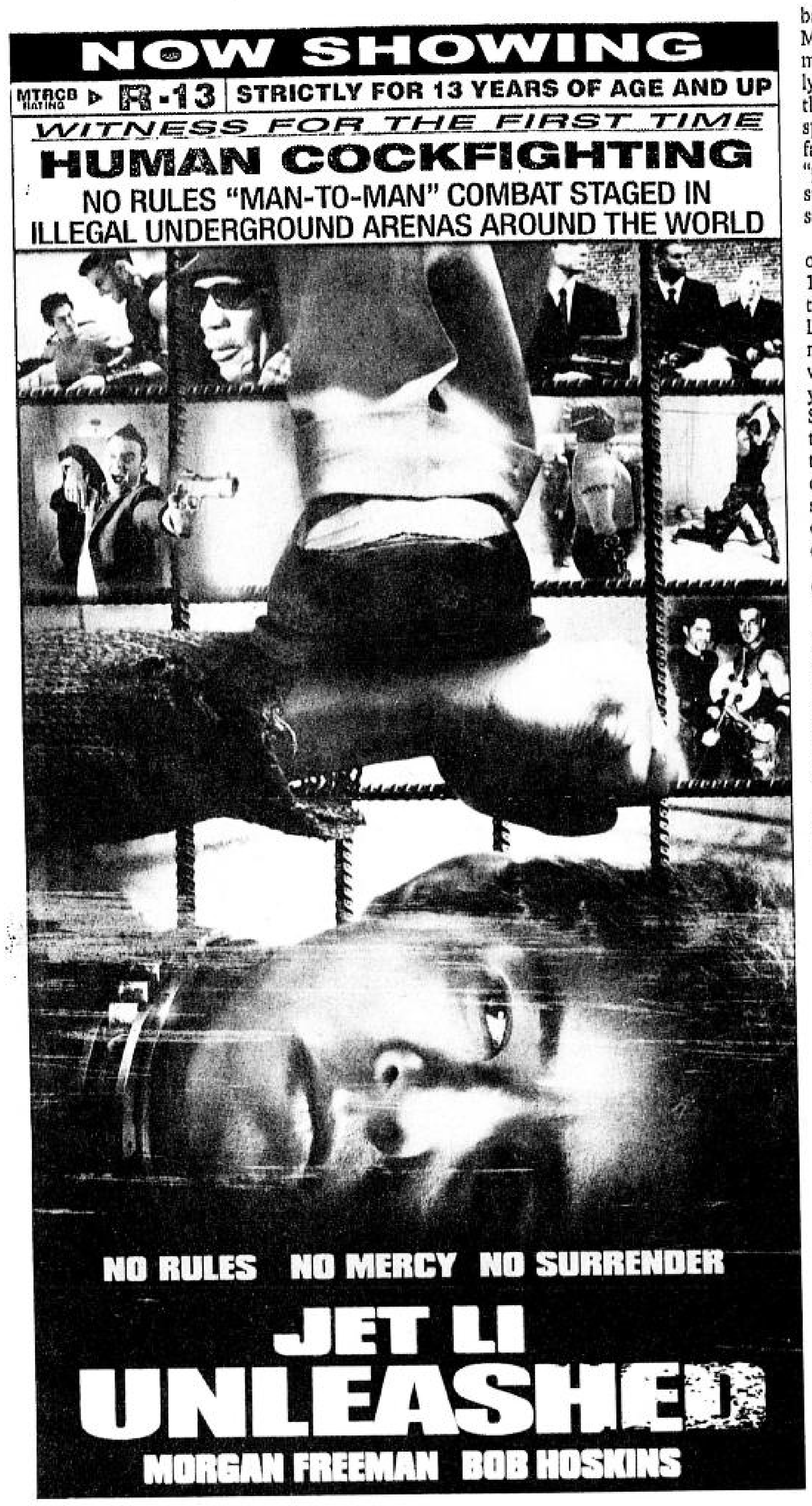
There aren't many Pinoys or Fil-Ams in the international rock scene, so we found the growing success of The Speaks encouraging. When we finally got to listen to their album, however, we had to admit that they really don't have much that distinguishes them from other rock bands. Sure, they sound good on the surface, but it's a surface that doesn't bear close scrutiny.

Sentiments

Single "Life's a Joke" is catchy enough, for example, but the lyrics are weak, and we just can't get over the fact that they sound too much like Creed.

We know they're well-intentioned and we'd rave over them once they start doing their own thing, but for now, we'd rather listen to Pearl Jam.

THE SPEAKS. They have been rocking and rolling for six years.



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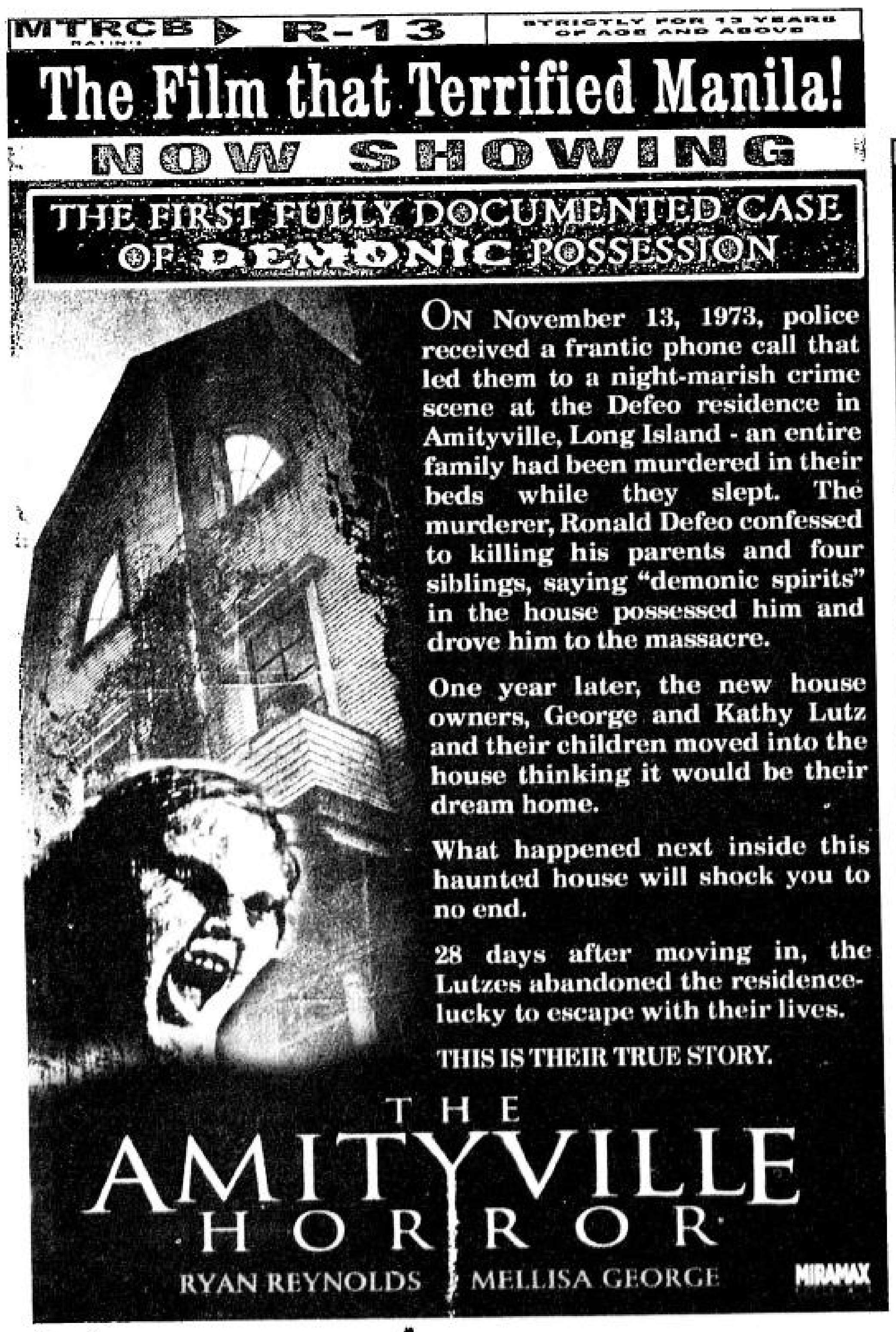
UNLEASHED
MORGAN FREEMAN BOB HOSKINS



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What happened next inside this haunted house will shock you to no end.

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THIS IS THEIR TRUE STORY.

THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
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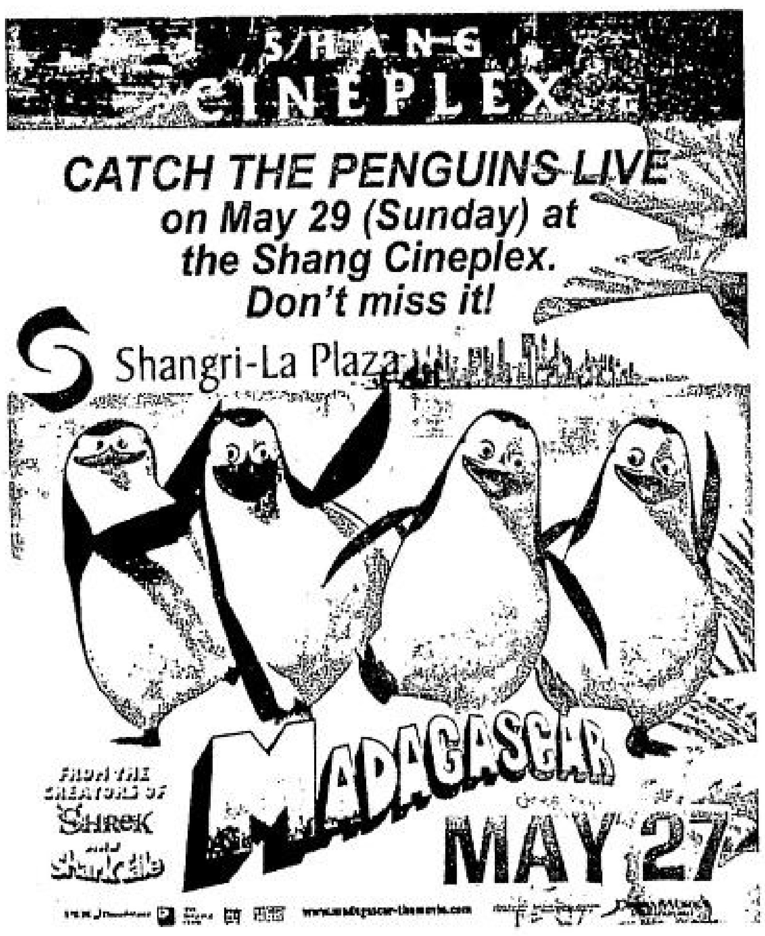

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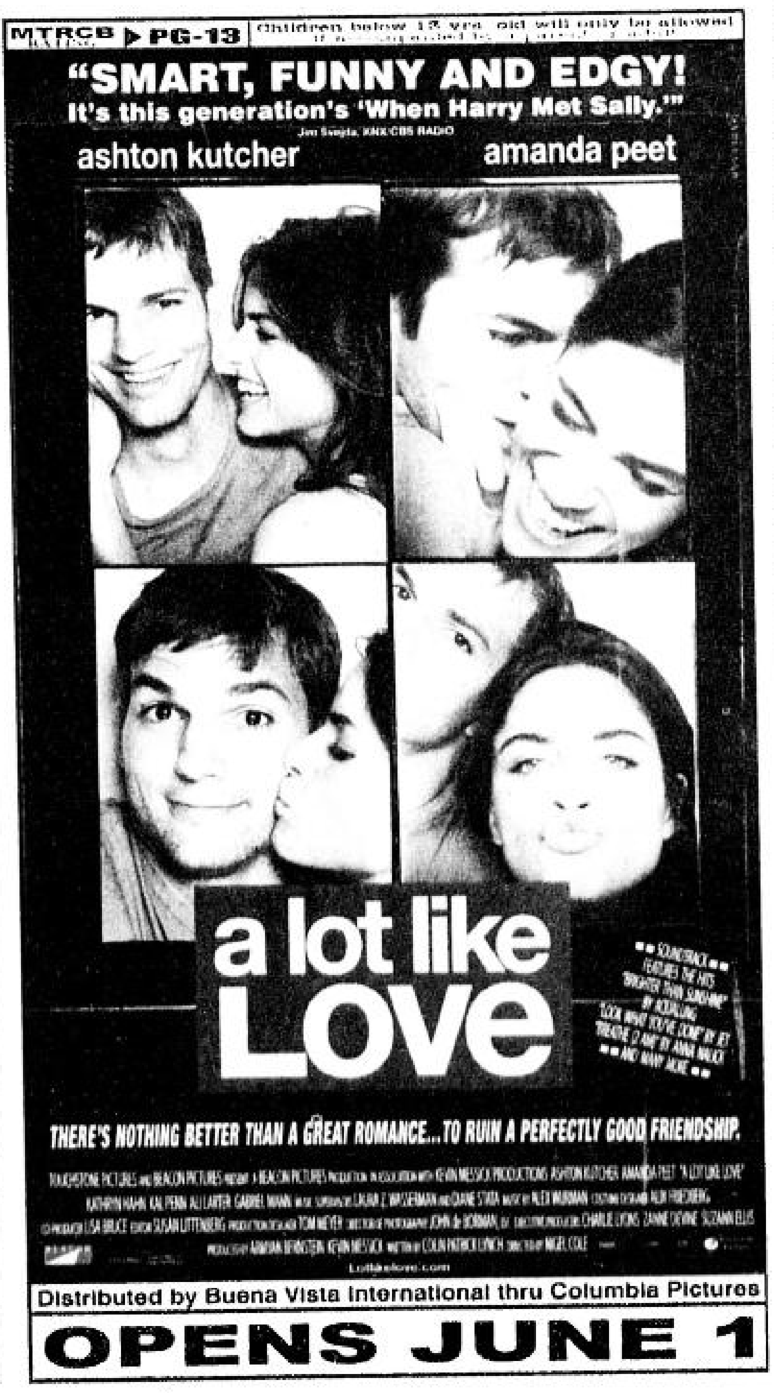

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Customs runs after CJHDevco /B5

JP Morgan back in PSE /B3

ICTSI bags Madagascar port project

PORT operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. won the bidding to manage Madagascar's main port, the World Bank's private-sector lending arm announced yesterday in Washington DC.

Four large foreign companies tendered bids for the 20-year concession to operate and develop the container terminal at the eastern port of Toamasina in Madagascar, in a process guided by the International Finance Corp.'s Advisory Services Department.

Manila-based ICTSI's bid was chosen over those of Danish shipping company AP Moeller-Maersk, Hutchinson Whampoa Ltd. and Malta Freeport Terminals Ltd.

"The concession … is not signed yet but they are the official winner of the bid," Bernard Sheahan, the IFC's director for Advisory Services Department, told Reuters.

Bringing in a private operator for the port's container terminal is part of Madagascar's effort to become a bigger player in the shipping business, the government said.

The Indian Ocean island has been in the spotlight lately in a new Hollywood animated movie called "Madagascar" and was the first aid recipient of Washington's Millennium Challenge Account for impoverished nations.

IFC's Sheahan said the new port contract would improve efficiency and capacity of the terminal and lower the cost of Madagascar's goods sent to market.

"It is usual that in situations of major port reforms you get gains and efficiency of between 10 to 40 percent in terms of costs borne by the exporters," he said in an interview.

Sheahan said the role of IFC's Advisory Services added transparency and credibility to the bidding process. It also helped send a broader message of the government's commitment to develop the economy with the help of private partnerships.

He said the contract should raise about $300 million in container royalties for the government over the life of the concession.

ICTSI has, among other things, agreed to

ICTSI / B3

BILATERAL TRADE TALKS
Philippine Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, right, and his Japanese counterpart Sadakazu Tanigaki shake hands before starting their bilateral talks at the Finance Ministry in Tokyo, Wednesday. AP

BSP SURVEY

Consumers turn pessimistic

By Doris C. Dumlao

FILIPINO consumers have turned more pessimistic in the second quarter as household incomes are seen barely coping with rising cost of goods, based on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' latest poll.

The latest BSP quarterly consumer expectation survey conducted among 2,280 households between April 1 and 7 indicated a deterioration in the diffusion index (DI) to -49.9 from -44.2 in the previous survey.

Respondents cited high prices of food, utilities, oil and transportation, insufficient income and higher household expenditures as reasons for their declining optimism.

The DI is the percentage share of respondents that answered in the affirmative less those that answered negative in a given indicator. A negative DI thus indicates a bearish view when measuring confidence levels.

All of the three component indices of overall consumer expectations—family income, family financial situation and economic condition of the country—declined during the period.

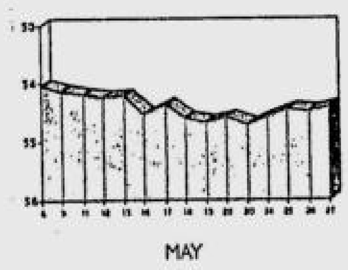
"These indicate that majority of respondents were not anticipating immediate improvement in their family income and family financial conditions," said BSP Officer in

CONSUMERS / B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P54.40= $1
As of 5 p.m., May 27, 2005

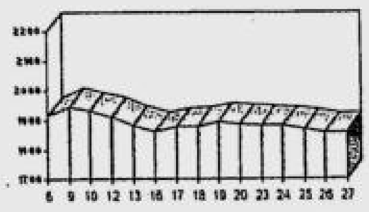
¥107.84= $1
As of 5 p.m., May 27, 2005

GOLD: $418.30-418.80
per ounce Hong Kong, May 27, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares end 5-day losing streak

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARE prices closed 0.9 percent higher yesterday to snap a five-day losing streak on bargain hunting sparked by a Fitch Ratings' credit ratings upgrade, brokers said.

Wall Street's gains overnight following the upward revision in the United States' first-quarter GDP growth also encouraged buyers, they said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index put on 16.69 points to close at the day's high of 1,875.41. It hit a low of 1,858.72.

Volume reached 1.07 billion shares worth P994.5 million. Gainers more than tripled losers 47 to 14, with 36 stocks unchanged.

The broader all-shares index rose 7.47 points to 1,145.21.

"It's a rebound from recent declines, helped by Fitch's stable outlook on the Philippines' credit ratings," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

"The faster-than-estimated growth of the US economy is also positive for us since the US is still one of our major trading partners."

The US government reported that the economy grew at a 3.5-percent annual rate in the first quarter, up from the initial estimate of 3.1 percent.

But De Leon said most investors remained cautious, hoping to see more positive leads before buying aggressively.

Conglomerate SM Investments, the most actively traded stock, closed up P1 at P249. Globe Telecom rose P5 to P825, while rival Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co was steady at P1,440. *AFP*

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*package includes: 2-year warranty, 24-hour roadside assistance, free one-year LTO registration, 3M tint

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June 3, 2005 (Friday) 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Course Outline:
Module 1: Knowing Your IIQ
Module 2: Presenting Yourself Effectively
Module 3: Outclassing the Competition
Module 4: Exuding the 3V's of Communication
Fee Php 850.00 per person (includes handouts, materials, workshop and certificate of attendance)
For inquiries and reservations, please contact Mr. Clerence Mata
tel 725-3686, 725-5833 or 724-9412
email. michelle@globallinkph.com

Philippine Center for Print Excellence Special Activities:
June 2 - 5, 2005
(Thursday to Sunday)
10:30 - 6:00 p.m.
> Launching of the Print Buyer's Guide - The Green Book
> Recognition of international award-winning Philippine printers during the Asian Print Awards

Fashion Show entitled
Corporate Dressing: Outclassing the Competition
(by designer Ms. Digna Rosales)
June 4, 2005 (Saturday) at 5:00 p.m.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:
> 287 booths on display
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Free Schedule Seminar

June 2, 2005 (Thursday)		
2:00 - 2:45	Special Services: Flexibility for your business	TNT International
3:00 - 3:45	Protection Beyond Expectation	Prodetech
3:00 - 3:45	Go2Call Product Presentation	Go2Call
4:00 - 4:45	Colored Printer LX 800	Chase Technologies Corp.
4:00 - 4:45	Sharp n eCopy Working Solution	E-Copy Corp.
5:00 - 5:45	Netmarks Services Capabilities	Netmarks Phils.
5:00 - 5:45	Canon Webcam	Canon Marketing Phils.
June 3, 2005 (Friday)		
11:00 - 11:45	Workflows: Integrating Digital and offset Printing Environments	Philippine Fuji Xerox
1:00 - 1:45	Technical Presentation on Armor Excellent Quality Barcode Ribbon	V-Tech Barcode System
1:00 - 1:45	Premium Gifts with Ocean Glassware	Gumamal Sons
2:00 - 2:45	Pitney Bowes ..Engineering the Flow of Communications	Paper Handling Systems
3:00 - 3:45	Thinking Differently: Transforming Profitability	HP Indigo
4:00 - 4:45	Display Communication Solutions	Globaltronics
5:00 - 5:45	Seamless IP & Your Contact Center	Concerto Software (Asia) Pte. Ltd.,
June 4, 2005 (Saturday)		
11:00 - 11:45	Power of Digital Display	Big Pix Graphic System
1:00 - 1:45	Televantage	Infinite Network Solutions
1:00 - 1:45	Total Punching and Binding System	SPC Philippines Inc.,
2:00 - 2:45	Technical Presentation on Armor Excellent Quality Barcode Ribbon	V-Tech Barcode System
2:00 - 2:45	Understanding Voice Over IT: Simple Technology Steps for Simple Business	Philonline
3:00 - 3:45	Maximizing Profitability with Digital Label	HP Indigo
3:00 - 3:45	Riso HC500 "The World's Color Printer"-An Ideal Alternative to Full Color Offset	Copylandia
4:00 - 4:45	Prepress Right on Your Desktop	Gakken Philippines
5:00 - 5:45	Add Life to Your Presentation	Gakken Philippines
5:30 - 6:30	Corporate Dressing ..Outclassing the Competition	Digna Rosales Enterprises
June 5, 2005 (Sunday)		
11:00 - 11:45	More than Yellow, More than just Pages	DPC
1:00 - 1:45	"Show and Sell": Using AVP's to Market Your Product	Digital Trip
2:00 - 2:45	Televantage	Infinite Network Solutions

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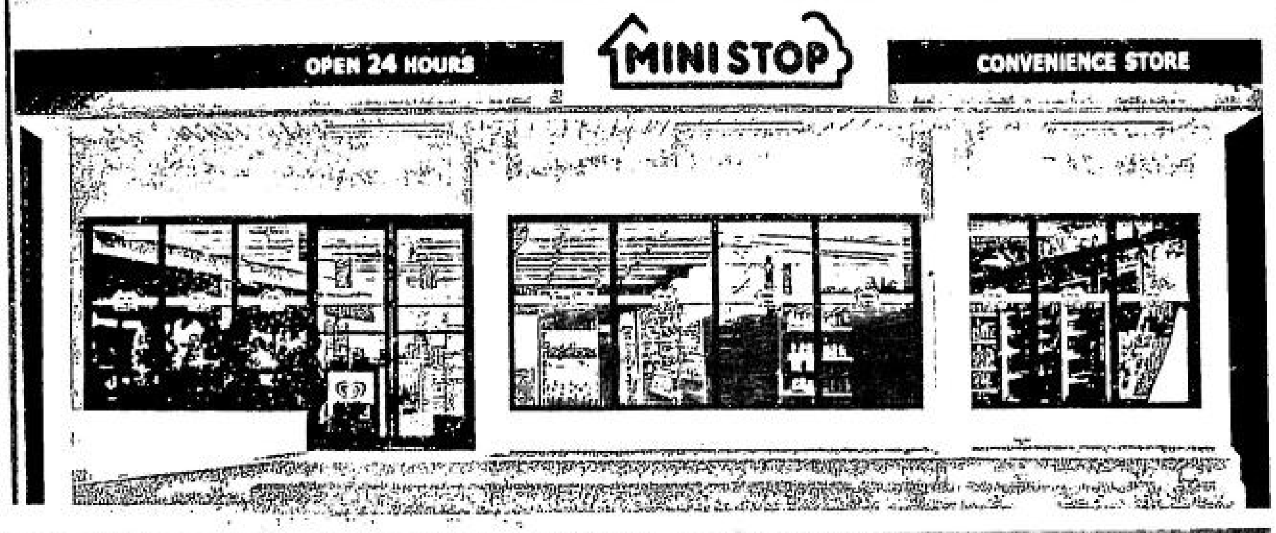

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Local growers urged to patent 'Manila mango'

By Abigail L. Ho

THE INTELLECTUAL Property Office has urged the local mango industry to patent the name "Manila mango" to prevent other companies from riding on its popularity.

IPO director general Adrian Cristobal Jr. said he was scheduled to meet with the Mango Product Exporters Confederation next week to look at ways on how to provide the mango industry with the necessary intellectual property protection.

He recently ordered a search for trademark applications, or geographical indications (GIs) registrations, for the name "Manila mango" in intellectual property offices worldwide.

An initial search of the United States Patent and Trademark Office showed that there was an application for trademark registration for "Manila mango" filed in 1994, but was abandoned the following year.

Trademark searches were also made in the intellectual property offices of Canada, Australia, Mexico and Spain to ensure that no other entity had yet staked its claim on the name that rightfully belonged to the Philippine export product, he said in a statement yesterday.

"What we are opposing is the use of geographical names as brands or trademarks. The Manila name rightfully belongs to no other country but the Philippines," Cristobal added.

He said the IPO had also requested the assistance of the Philippine ambassador to Mexico, as well as the Philippine commercial attaché and trade representative to the US, to gather more information on the "Manila mango" trademark.

"If there is any trademark application on Manila mango, we will support our local producers to institute the necessary action to oppose it," he said.

Walk before you rain

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SINCE many of us cannot afford to buy brand-new cars, the new commissioner of customs under this cute administration, a guy named Alberto Lina, has a bright idea.

And that is, we should just walk.

What a brilliant proposal! Now why did we not think of such a simple yet obvious solution to our transport woes? We should all pay homage to Lina for his genius.

Walking is good. As my Apong Oning used to say, "learn to walk before you run, because time waits for no one."

See, that's why Lina is brilliant, because walking is good for our health.

In this country, anyway, following Lina's bright idea, we must walk for hours to go from place to place—such as the customs offices.

Well, we do not have any mass transport system. What we have are bits and pieces of rail transit masquerading as mass transport. And so, everybody uses cars. And so in this country, air pollution is hitting the danger zones.

Thanks to Lina's bright idea, therefore, we can expect to live longer by walking in the streets, just to fill up our lungs with dirty air.

***

OUR GIFTED customs commissioner, who cares for us a lot, and that's why he wants to clean the air by making us inhale it, perhaps meant what he said about us just "walking," only as a figure of speech.

Come on, he does not really want all of us who cannot afford brand-new cars to walk. He just wants us to save enough money so that we can buy brand-new cars instead.

Of course, many of us would rather save for the schooling of our children, before we could even think of—okay, DREAM of—buying one of those costly brand-new cars.

But such money matters do not concern Lina, even if to us down here, we must count every peso of our heavily taxed earnings, because times are rather hard.

Basta, if you cannot afford to buy brand-new cars, it is not Lina's problem. He is just doing what this cute administration told him to do.

Actually, when Lina told us to go take a hike, he was only trying to defend a new tax imposition of this cute administration on imported second-hand vehicles.

This month, as a special treat to the majority of us who cannot afford brand-new cars, Gloriaetta imposed a stiff "specific tax" on imported, second-hand vehicles.

Oh, it only amounts to P500,000 per unit, which is on top of the regular customs duties and other taxes on imported vehicles—whether new or old. That stiff!

***

TO JUSTIFY its imposition of such an inequitable tax on things that, actually, the less moneyed among us can afford, this cute administration had to resort to pulling our leg.

Malacañang issued Executive Order No. 418, imposing the P500,000 specific tax on all types of imported second-hand vehicles, be they cars, buses, trucks, and everything.

Here I quote the order: "There is a need to mitigate impact of used motor vehicle trading on air quality and road safety."

There you have it! In the name of the environment and your very own life and limb, this cute administration simply wants you to pay up, period!

I am trying to figure out, however, by what stretch of the imagination made Malacañang conclude that the mere payment of P500,000 per vehicle can stop air pollution and road accidents.

And to think, it must be no other kind of vehicle but a SECOND-HAND vehicle. Not only that, it must be an IMPORTED vehicle.

Do we take it then that brand-new vehicles do not pollute or figure in road accidents? The same goes true for similar second-hand but NOT imported vehicles, is that it?

Let me see if I got it right—you mean to say, boss, if we pay a P500,000 tax for an imported used vehicle, all of a sudden, its smoke becomes clean and its passengers become immortal? Wow! This is pure and simple science.

***

WHAT will happen then if the moneyed among us, such as the jueteng lords and the jueteng protectors, decide to buy imported second-hand vehicles?

They can surely afford to pay for the stiff specific tax. Well, for that matter, a lot of people—mainly the rich—can afford to pay for it.

So tell us, boss, where does the new specific tax stop air pollution and road accidents? Only in your dreams?

Like it or not, Malacañang was just using the "environment" and "road safety" as a shield to cover the real source of the new tax.

Come on, everybody knows, perhaps except the customs commissioner, that the tax imposition was the direct result of the lobby of local car companies.

They are the companies which call themselves "manufacturers," although for the past 35 years, all they did here was assemble parts into cars, or to import ready-made cars.

And in all those 35 years or so, they enjoyed heavy government protection, plus a lot of tax breaks.

And in all those times, we were hoping against hope that, someday, they would make cars affordable for us.

They just made second-hand cars far from reach, too!

***

GRANTED that brand-new cars, both those assembled here and those that the car companies import themselves, do not emit deadly fumes, and they also do not figure in any road accident whatsoever.

Maybe this cute administration believes that second-hand, locally assembled vehicles do not pollute, even if they are as old as JPE and as noisy as Miriam.

As far as I can remember, no car company here also has ever recalled any one of their cars, which probably means that every vehicle they ever produced was perfect, and thus their "road worthiness" was never an issue with Malacañang.

Granted that the local car companies, which by the way are majority-owned by foreign car companies, which are doing all the lobbying at the Palace, only sell pollution-free and accident-proof vehicles, whether brand-new or second-hand.

Will the imposition of the stiff tax on imported second-hand vehicles make those "local" brand-new cars affordable, even to the struggling small businesses?

I guess those guys should just deliver their goods to us by walking!

***

AND SO I'll let you in on a little secret. Those second-hand imported small trucks, for instance, actually became popular among small businesses, because they were affordable.

Look, a brand-new small truck (also imported, by the way, and imported by the so-called "local" car companies) can cost almost P1 million—without the "body" yet, at that! And then you have to wait for several weeks, even if you have the money!

I checked the classified ads, and they showed that an imported second-hand small truck costs only about P300,000—with everything!

Guess why imported used vehicles became an industry in itself, thereby giving much, much more income opportunity to us than those "local" foreign-owned car companies, which claim to employ hundreds of thousands, although the BOI admits they only employ 5,000 or 6,000—tops.

I'll tell you why, and it's because only a few can afford brand-new vehicles, and so those cheap vehicles have a ready market here, genius.

And so what will happen to us with Malacañang trying to protect foreign interests in our own land, by pulling our leg with talk about "environment" and "safety?"

What will happen to us who are not appointed to the customs bureau, although we owned a customs brokerage firm, and we also operated bonded warehouses, which were known fronts for smuggling?

Well, I guess we will all just have to walk even in the rain!

Gov't still keen on drawing oil from Malampaya field

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is maintaining its stance that oil from the Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project must be taken out, despite the Malampaya consortium members' refusal to undertake the oil-drawing process.

Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya said the DOE was not giving up on the oil component of the Malampaya gas find as this could help the country move toward energy independence.

"Our position is still to get the oil out. Even if it's just 28 million to 30 million barrels of oil, we still have to get it out for the country's use. But it has to be taken out soon, as it will be harder to bring that out later when the gas pressure drops," he told reporters.

Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp. president and chief executive Eduardo Mañalac earlier said that it was still realistically feasible at this point to draw first oil from the reserves by April 2006, although it would be quite difficult due to the delays in forming the consortium that would do it.

Right now, he said, the government was having some difficulty in finding a technically capable firm to extract oil from the Malampaya gas field due to the high degree of expertise needed in doing so.

"There are many interested investors. It's a question of whether or not these investors are experienced enough. We need to be very sure so as not to jeopardize the gas production," he said.

PNOC-EC, which holds a 10-percent stake in the Malampaya consortium, is now looking for entities that would help it develop and operate the Malampaya oil rim.

ICTSI . . .

From page B1

recapitalize the port authority and invest in several fixed assets to improve operations. The IFC said it stood ready with loans to help with the investments.

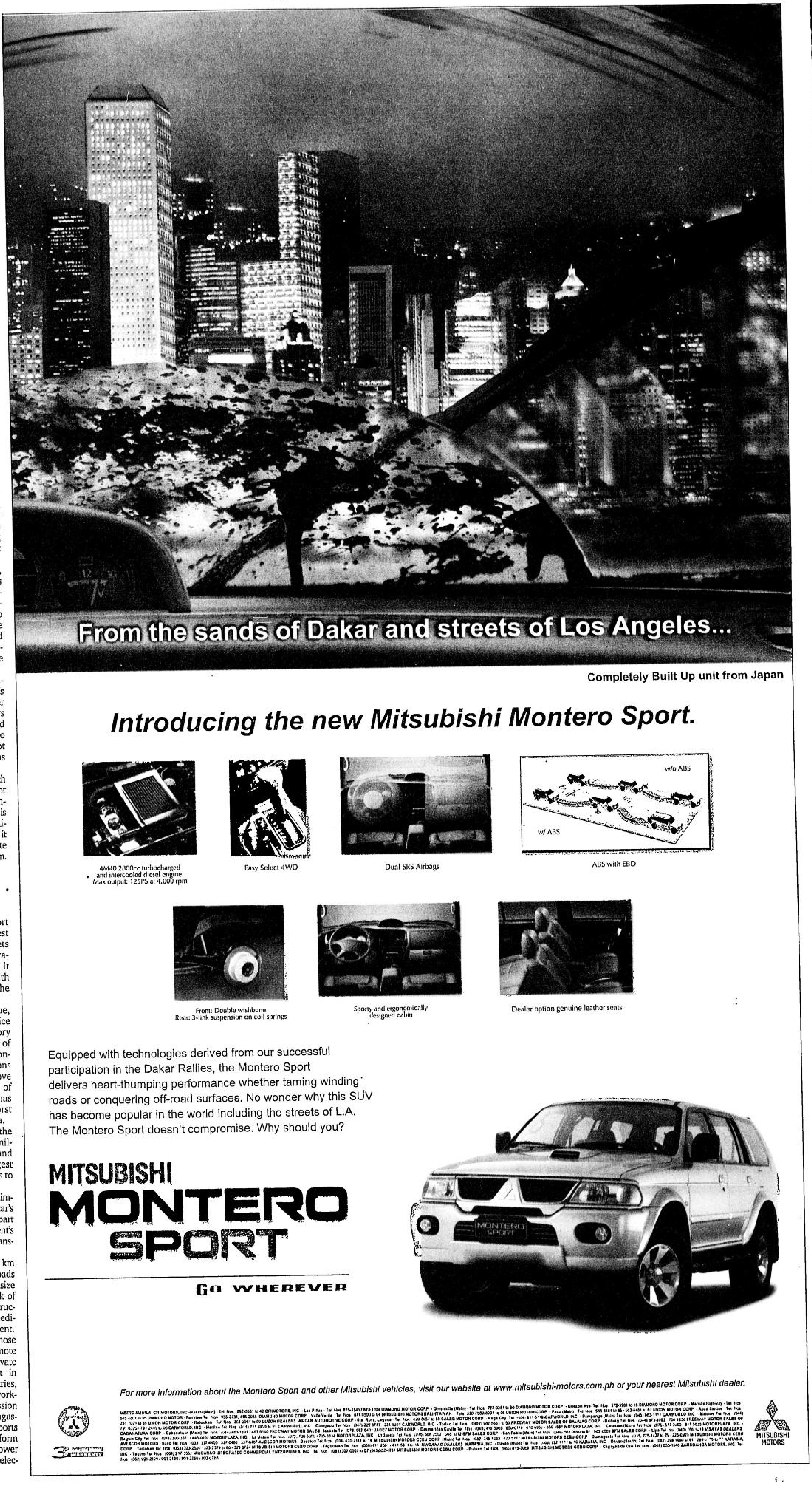
Towfiqua Hoque, an investment office for the IFC's Advisory Services, said one of ICTSI's biggest contractual obligations would be to improve the performance of the port, which has long been the worst performer in Africa.

Madagascar is the world's biggest vanilla producer and Africa's third-largest exporter of textiles to the United States.

Sheahan said improving Madagascar's sea trade link was part of the government's push to upgrade transport infrastructure.

With just 6,000 km of constructed roads on the island, the size of France, the lack of transport infrastructure is a major impediment to development.

The IFC, whose mission is to promote sustainable private sector investment in developing countries, is currently also working on a concession program for Madagascar's larger airports and helping to reform the country's power sector to increase electricity supply.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JP Morgan reactivating PSE seat

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TWO YEARS after suspending its operations in the Philippines, US-based broker JP Morgan Securities (Philippines) will reopen its brokerage seat at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), INQUIRER sources said.

Roberto Panlilio, chair of JP Morgan Philippines, told the INQUIRER the potential of the Philippine market was bright considering the renewed investor interest in initial public offerings.

JP Morgan's application to reopen its seat is still pending with the PSE and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Other sources said JP Morgan was planning to relaunch in the PSE by July.

JP Morgan was one of the several foreign and local brokerage houses that suspended operations in April 2003 due to the then poor market condition.

PSE president Francis Lim said JP Morgan's renewed interest in the local stock market was a welcome development.

JP Morgan in the Philippines is part of the JP Morgan Chase group in New York, which has assets of about $1.1 trillion and operations in more than 50 countries.

The firm is a leader in investment banking, financial services for consumers and businesses, financial transaction processing, asset and wealth management, and private equity.

In the meantime, power generation firm First Generation Holdings and Producers Rural Bank of Cabanatuan in Nueva Ecija are keen on making their debut in the stock market. First Gen has expressed its interest to list on exchange this year and has tapped investment banks UBS, CLSA, BDO Capital and ATR Kim Eng as underwriters. First Gen is targeting to offer between 20 and 40 percent of new and previously-owned shares worth about $300 million.

First Gen is the holding company of the Lopez Group's power and energy-related businesses.

First Gen subsidiaries First Gas Power Corp. and FGP Corp. own 1,000-MW and 500-MW natural gas-fired power plants, respectively. Both plants are in Batangas.

First Gen is 88.4 percent owned by First Philippine Holdings. The balance is owned by Asian Infrastructure Development Company (Aidec) FG Power Corp. Ltd., a $400-million investment fund involved in Asian private infrastructure projects and Sumitomo, one of the largest trading conglomerates in Japan.

In its management report, the PSE also said it had contacted several companies for a possible initial public offering. These included thrift bank Philippine Business Bank, juice maker Zesto Corp., coffee shop operator Figaro and call center group eTelecare.

The PSE also intends to ask other firms to conduct their IPOs, including Internet text messaging company Chikka.Com, National Bookstore, oil firm Flying V, beauty care products maker Splash, Pascual Laboratories and PNOC Energy Development Corp.

Last year, only International Exchange Bank braved the market. This year, Manila Water Co. of the Ayala Group raised around P5 billion from its public offer while SM Investments Corp., the flagship company of mall tycoon Henry Sy Sr. fetched P29 billion from its public sale of shares, so far the biggest IPO in PSE's history.

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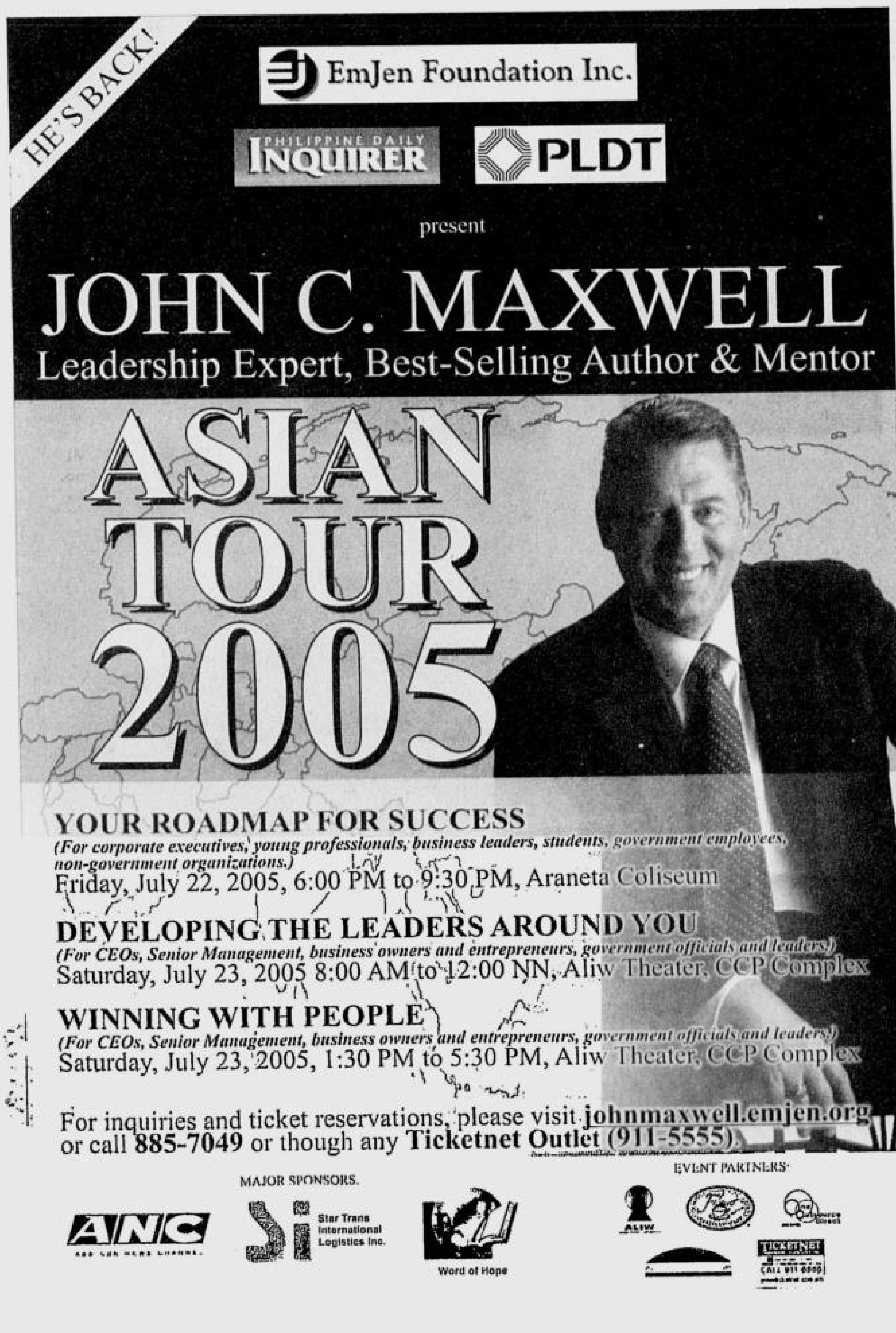

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FLI earmarks ₱1.2B for 8 projects in '05

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FILINVEST Land Inc. of the Gotianun family is setting aside P1.2 billion for capital expenditures this year, FLI president Joseph Yap said.

The company will implement eight major residential projects this year, Yap added.

Lined up for implementation this year were the following: Summerfield, an affordable housing project in San Pedro, Laguna; Northview Villas in Quezon City and Banyan Ridge in San Mateo Rizal, which target the middle-income market; two regional middle-income projects such as Villa Mercedita in Davao and Mactan Tropics in Cebu; a leisure project—Timberland Sports and Nature Club in Timberland Heights and Forest Farms in Angono, Rizal.

FLI is also increasing its authorized capital stock to P16 billion from P10 billion. In an earlier statement, the company said its board approved on April 13 the increase in the company's authorized capital stock to support the expected growth of all FLI businesses in the future.

The capital increase is expected to give the company more financial muscle to fund possible acquisitions or investments, improve working capital and optimize its overall capital structure.

Related to this, FLI's board also approved the declaration of stock dividends worth P1.5 billion.

Fueled by the expected recovery in the property market, FLI is optimistic it can achieve a 10-15 percent growth in its income this year from last year's P595.95 million.

"The outlook is positive. We see increases in sales by 20 percent this year," Yap said.

In the first quarter, FLI said its net earnings grew 24 percent to P130 million from year-ago level. Gross profit increased 47 percent to P338 million from P229 million.

Its middle-income housing group, called the Corte Bella Unit, accounted for the bulk of the period's sales.

FLI said attractive pricing, continuous marketing activities, and incentives offered to both buyers and sellers boosted its sales.

Interests and other incomes increased by 191 percent in the first quarter.

The company's equity earnings in Filinvest Alabang Inc. amounted to P8 million.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 27, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	7,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	28	29	28	28.5	380,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48	47	48	1,848,900
China Banking Corp.	750	750	750	750	1,460
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	2,080,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48.5	49.5	48.5	49.5	71,200
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	104,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	30	30.5	588,600
Philippine National Bank	33	33	33	33	23,000
Phil. Savings Bank	32	34	32	34	400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	21,800
Security Bank Corp.	30	30	30	30	10,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	230	265	221	265	130
Manulife Financial Corp.	2410	2410	2410	2410	70
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	174,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1675	1675	1675	1675	380
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.04	2,607,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	830	835	825	825	54,390
Ipeople Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	11,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,800,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.1	3.1	425,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1450	1455	1440	1440	3,340
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	121,700,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.5	14,700
Manila Electric Co. B	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.75	116,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	7,141,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.2	1,102,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.16	1.18	1.16	1.18	150,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.3	7.5	7.3	7.5	23,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	54,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.56	0.6	0.56	0.6	240,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.05	151,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	191,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	29	29.5	29	29.5	316,400
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58.5	57.5	58.5	48,900
San Miguel Corp. B	84	84.5	84	84.5	172,000
Universal Robina Corp.	12.75	13	12.75	13	139,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	1,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.7	2,347,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	4.9	4.8	4.85	1,013,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.92	1.92	21,000
APC Group Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	260,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	40,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.96	0.94	0.94	5,500,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	90,000
CADP Group Corp.	1	1	1	1	40,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.44	2.46	2.44	2.46	3,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	20,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.9	8	7.7	7.8	466,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44.5	44.5	44	44.5	107,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	100,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	375,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	100,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	880,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	3,460,000
SM Investments Corp.	247	249	247	249	2,315,420
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	1,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.165	0.16	0.165	2,920,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.16	1.18	1.16	1.18	230,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.09	0.0925	3,200,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.12	2,110,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	220,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.24	1,145,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	12	12	12	12	1,001,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.7	5,005,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	300,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	810,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	900,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	180,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	4,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	2,998,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	670,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	700,000
SM Development Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	5,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.5	2,537,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	8,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	21,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	330,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	1,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	56,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	770,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	830,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28.5	1,054,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
OIL					
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	10,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.145	3,820,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	130,000

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **Mariwasa Manufacturing Inc.** were Edison Co Seteng, Kan Trakulhoon, Ferdinand Edwin Co Seteng, Pramoth Phromaue, Thavi Tanboonrit, Kajohndet Sangsuban, Dusit Nontanakorn, Jacinto Sy, Lourdes Sy, Benjamin Laurel, Regina Co Seteng and Yvette Co Seteng.

* * *

JUAN Victor Tanjuatco was named member of **Asiatrust Bank**'s executive committee. Also appointed were Felipe Bayno Jr., vice president/head of human resources management group and Ernesto Manansala, senior vice president/CFO.

* * *

MARIO Tongson, Renato Reyes and Christine Base resigned as directors of **Active Alliance Inc.** Others who resigned were Lincoln Le-Cheun Chen as president; Godofredo Galindez Jr. as treasurer, Reyes as senior vice president; Carmell Banci as vice president for finance and Cesar Anton Galindez as VP. Elected directors were Michael Zalamea, Leo Victorio and Antonio Jose Periquet. Bienvenido Tan III and Crisanto Roy Alcid were elected president and treasurer, respectively. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

May 27, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.799232737	1.000000	54.4550
Japan	Yen	0.007406	0.009266	0.5046
United Kingdom	Pound	1.454684	1.820100	99.1135
Hongkong	Dollar	0.102724	0.128528	6.9990
Switzerland	Franc	0.646576	0.808996	44.0539
Canada	Dollar	0.631455	0.790077	43.0236
Singapore	Dollar	0.481523	0.602482	32.8082
Australia	Dollar	0.607735	0.760398	41.4075
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.120037	2.652590	144.4468
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.213123	0.266660	14.5210
Brunei	Dollar	0.480078	0.600673	32.7096
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000106	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.01981	0.024786	1.3497
UAE	Dirham	0.217609	0.272272	14.8266
Euro	Euro	1	1.251200	68.1341
Denmark	Kroner	0.134341	0.168087	9.1532
India	Rupee	0.018374	0.022989	1.2519
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.210336	0.263172	14.3310
Mexico	New Peso	0.073033	0.091379	4.9760
New Zealand	Dollar	0.568323	0.711086	38.7222
Korea	Won	0.000798	0.000999	0.0544
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025453	0.031847	1.7342

Consumers . . .

From page B1

Charge Amando Tetangco Jr.

"Likewise, more respondents expected the economy to worsen compared to those who expected it to improve," he said.

The outlook for the third quarter was also weak as the DI went down to -24.3 percent from -16.8 percent in the previous survey. This means that a bigger number of respondents expected the economic situation of the country and their household budget to be worse off in the next quarter.

For the fourth consecutive quarter, consumer confidence for the year ahead also deteriorated.

As a result, consumers were even more cautious in purchasing assets in the second quarter of 2005 compared to the previous survey. All three component indices to measure buying conditions—consumer durables, house and/or lot and motor vehicles—dropped compared to the previous survey.

Customs after CJHDevco for back taxes, duties

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Customs is running after Camp John Hay Development Corp. for some P72 million in back taxes and duties.

Customs District Collector Edward O. Baltazar, in a letter to CJHDevco dated last May 26, said the company was liable to pay P71.98 million in taxes and duties on the importation it made from 1998 to 2004.

The BOC has given CJHDevco 15 days to settle the amount, or the agency would take legal action against the company.

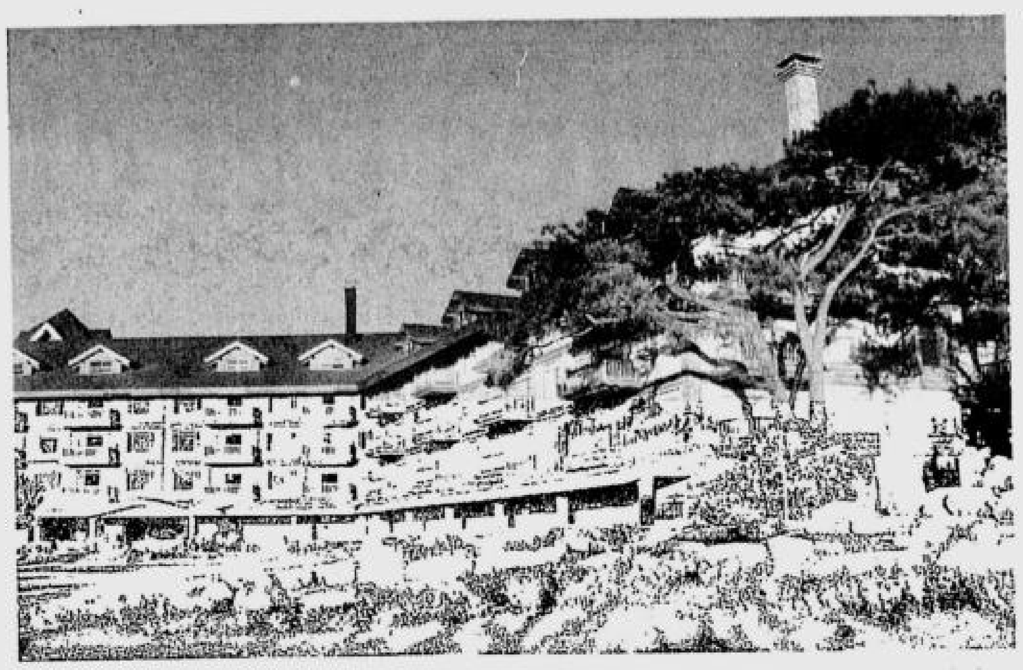
The back taxes were incurred after the Supreme Court nullified its special economic zone status. The court order effectively nullified the tax and duty exemption privilege earlier granted to the Camp John Hay developer.

The BOC move came following an earlier decision of the Bureau of Internal Revenue denying CJHDevco's request for authority to print non-VAT receipts and invoices.

The BIR said the Supreme Court decision effectively made CJHDevco an ordinary corporation and, as such, it is subject to the 35-percent corporate income tax and the 10-percent value-added tax.

CJHDevco cried foul over the move of the two revenue collection agencies and over the Supreme Court ruling, stressing that its lease agreement with the government agency Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) clearly provided for the company's fiscal perks.

"CJHDevco will seek indemnification. We will pursue all legal steps to protect our rights as spelled out in our lease agreement," lawyer Gina Alvarez, CJHDevco spokesperson, said in a statement.



CAMP John Hay Manor, one of the major projects implemented by the Fil-Estate group-led consortium at the former American military base. CHITO VECINA

CJHDevco stressed that the tax and duty exemptions were guaranteed by the BCDA when the government agency invited the developer to bid for the development of Camp John Hay in 1996, and that the granting of the fiscal incentives was clearly stated in the agreement signed by the two parties.

The move of the BIR and the BOC to run after CJHDevco for taxes and duties came in the wake of the company's tussle with the BCDA over rental fees.

The BCDA is collecting from some P2.2 billion in rental fees from CJHDevco, saying the company had not been paying rent since 1998.

BCDA said that with the unpaid rental fees, it was now seriously considering taking over the management of Camp John Hay.

For its part, CJHDevco said it would only agree to settle the rental fees if the government honored the lease agreement that provided for the company's tax- and duty-free privileges.

"This only proves that we are not hiding behind the Supreme Court ruling. The impact of the SC decision is immediate and real," the company said in the statement.

Budget airline seeks additional flights

By Clarissa S. Batino

TIGER Airways Pte Ltd, the low-cost affiliate of Singapore Airlines, is seeking additional flight entitlements to and from Clark Field, Pampanga, in anticipation of a steady increase in demand.

The airline, which serves the Singapore-Clark route, had asked the Civil Aeronautics Board for an authority to fly 10 times to and from Clark and to serve the Singapore-Cebu route.

Tony Davis, president of Tiger Airways, said the carrier also advised the CAB that it was considering mounting flights to and from Cebu in the near-to-medium term.

Tiger Airways launched its Clark-Singapore thrice weekly flights on April 5. Starting June, the carrier will have five flights a week. It will go daily by July.

So far, according to Davis, flights to and from Clark are, most of the time, almost full.

Tiger—which is 49 percent owned by Singapore Airlines, 11 percent by Tamasek Holdings and the rest by Indigo Partners of Ryan Air—flies straight to and from Singapore. It now flies to 10 cities in six countries.

Like other budget carriers, Tiger Airways' biggest come-on is its price. The carrier offers a one-way fare of as low as $25 for those who will book three months ahead.

Additional charges imposed are P540 in travel tax; P350 in terminal fee; P75 in insurance surcharge, and P120 in administrative costs.

Davis said Tiger's regular fare was much higher than $25 but still substantially lower than the rates charged by full-service airlines. When it started the Clark-Singapore route, Tiger Airways offered one-way seats for as low as $6 each.

"We have asked Clark and the CAB to let us fly 10 times a week. If they agree, we can start doing this by July. We will have morning and evening flights from Clark," said Davis in an interview.

Tiger Airways also wants to increase its frequency to Macao and Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City.

Davis said the warm market reception to its Clark flights prompted the company to accelerate its expansion plans in the Philippines.

Tiger Airways said it was seeing a great future for Clark as a major airport for low-cost carriers.

"Even some passengers prefer Clark because there is less traffic and it's nearer to those from Central Luzon," said Davis.

Malaysia's budget carrier AirAsia Berhad also started its daily Kuala Lumpur/Kota Kinabalu-Clark flights on April 5. Its affiliate, Thai Air Asia, also has a pending application with the CAB for Clark-Thailand flights.

No-frills carriers promise to bring in more tourists and enhance economic activity, especially in Clark.

Davis said his company was not here to steal traffic from existing operators, but to create demand through its low fares.

Gov't cuts tariff on petrochem to 5%

By Abigail L. Ho

THE CABINET-LEVEL Tariff and Related Matters (TRM) will cut the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) rates on petrochemical products from 7-10 percent to only 5 percent starting July.

The tariffs, however, will revert to the current levels when a planned naphtha cracker plant, being undertaken by JG Summit Petrochemical Corp., goes into commercial operation.

CEPT rates are slapped on goods and services traded among members of South East Asian Nations.

The Department of Trade and Industry yesterday said in a statement that this move would allow the downstream industries, the main market for imported petrochem products, to expand their operations with greater competitiveness.

Under the Asean Free Trade Area-CEPT scheme, tariffs on almost all products traded in the region had been slashed to zero to 5 percent starting 2003.

The Philippines, however, decided to delay the tariff cuts on certain petrochemical products to protect the domestic industry. To do this, the government invoked a protocol in the CEPT agreement that allowed member-countries to protect certain industries.

EO 161, issued in 2003, retained petrochemicals in the CEPT's temporary exclusion list, setting tariffs at between 7 and 10 percent on 11 resins and some plastic products.

The Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines (APMP) became the voice of local manufacturers in asking the government to extend the EO 161 tariff cover up to 2010 "to ensure the viability of the establishment of the country's first ever naphtha cracker of JG Summit Petrochemical Corp."

JG Summit has revived plans to put up a naphtha-cracker facility in the country. This is expected to start commercial operations in the first half of 2008.

The downstream plastics industry, represented by the Philippine Plastic Industry Association (PPIA), had also thrown full support for this proposed naphtha cracker facility.

Despite supporting this project, however, the downstream sector urged the government to immediately slash the tariffs on the EO 161-covered products to remedy the distortion between the resins and downstream plastics.

The PPIA agreed to the tariff cover for petrochemical manufacturers, but only when the naphtha cracker becomes operational.

The downstream plastics sector warned of more company closures if petrochemicals would continue to be exempted from the CEPT.

hp

Entertainment on the Go: HP Makes It Possible

Today's generation lives and breathes in a world of "instants". From shampoos, to noodles, to hair dyes, you name it - practically anything and everything consumed or utilized on a daily basis can now be obtained in its faster, more convenient form. Count in your peelers, mashers, graters, cutters and countless other gizmos that promise to get the job done in, what else, an instant.

Almost nothing is spared from this "instant" phenomenon. Not even something as intangible as entertainment. Nowadays, movies, music, TV, games and even photos can be accessed at a click of button, anytime and anywhere.

For example, imagine you're stuck in the middle of nowhere, bored and with no hope of getting home within the next hour or two. Typically, the first thing you'd wish you have during this time is something to entertain you to pass the time. Maybe playing games on your mobile phones will do for a while. But wouldn't it be cool if you can experience something more exciting?

If you say yes, then you are one among thousands of consumers who constantly search for new ways to entertain themselves, whether at home, at work, or on the move.

HP, one of the world's leading innovators of digital entertainment products, readily answers the call of the demanding market.

Enter the HP Pavilion dv1109AP Entertainment Notebook PC, the ultimate multimedia PC on the go.

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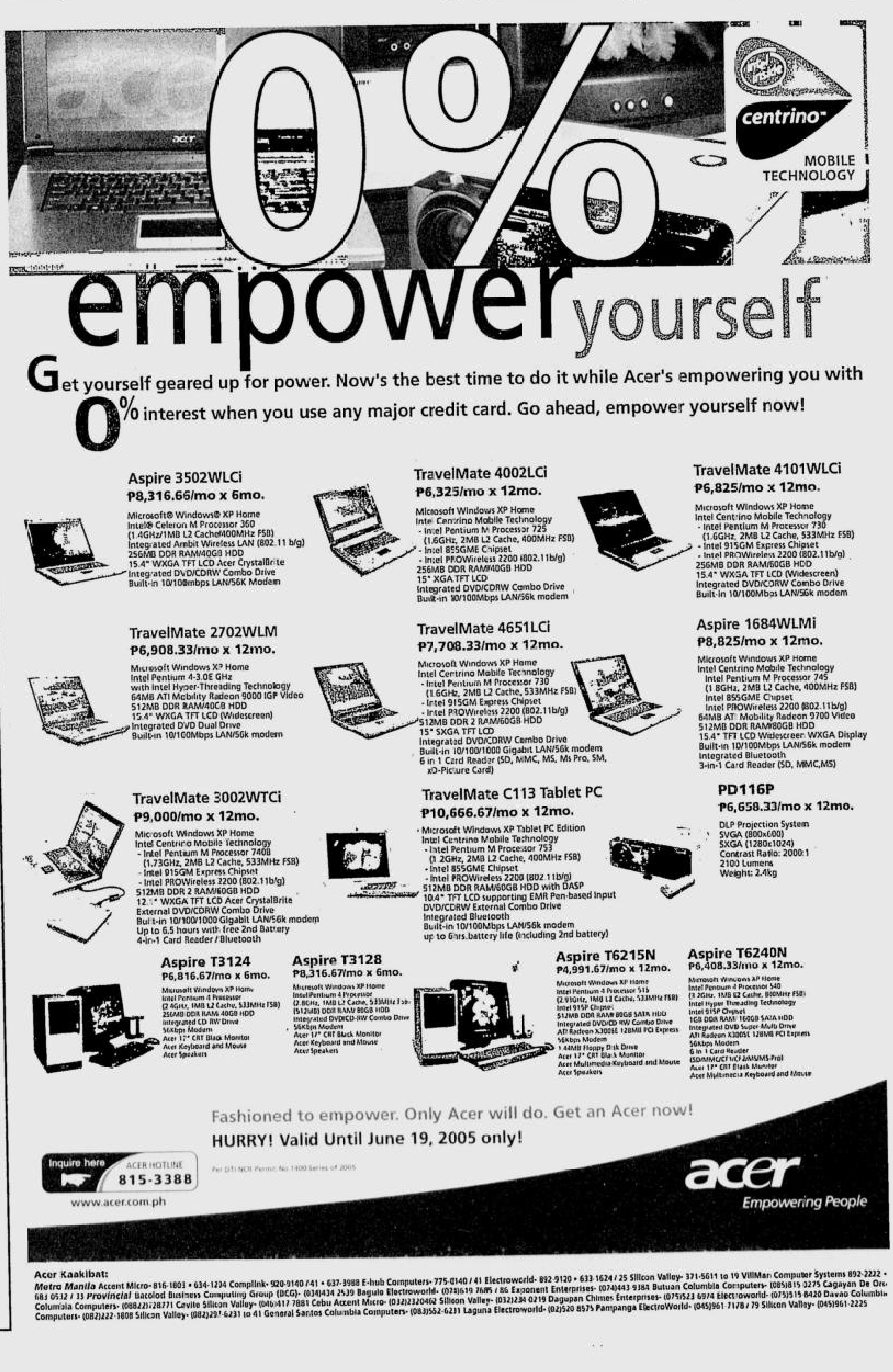

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When your arteries get clogged

By Charles E. Buban

LIKE a number of Filipinos 60 years and older, Conrad had trouble walking after an artery in his leg got clogged up with plaque. He frequently complained about a gnawing pain in his left calf while walking, forcing him to make a lot of rest stops.

His doctor told him he had a complete blockage in the leg. While viewing Conrad's X-ray, his doctor said, "You should see a dark line of the blood flow going all the way down, but because of the blockage, you don't see that."

Conrad can still consider himself fortunate because the cause of his complaint was identified.

"Two-thirds of people with this condition, otherwise known as peripheral arterial disease (PAD), do not have notable symptoms, which makes it particularly dangerous because a person with PAD is six times more likely to die from a heart attack or stroke compared to those without PAD," said Dr. Marcelino Durante.

Durante and Dr. Francisco Dalangin are leading an awareness campaign on atherothrombosis, the most common cause of PAD as well as heart attack and stroke.

Lifelong disease

"Atherothrombosis is a lifelong disease that affects the body's network of blood vessels," said Durante.

It occurs when a blood clot forms on fatty deposits in the inside wall of an artery in the heart, brain or leg.

"This is dangerous because if the clot grows and blocks 'an artery, blood stops flowing and the tissue is starved of oxygen and the nutrients it needs," said Dalangin.

He said that if blood flow is not restored in time, atherothrombosis can result in life-threatening consequences, permanently damaging the brain, the heart and even the legs.

In many cases, the damage is so extensive that death can occur.

Prevention

"Research has shown that arteriosclerosis starts in childhood, despite the fact that symptoms may not appear until a person is middle-aged or older," said Durante.

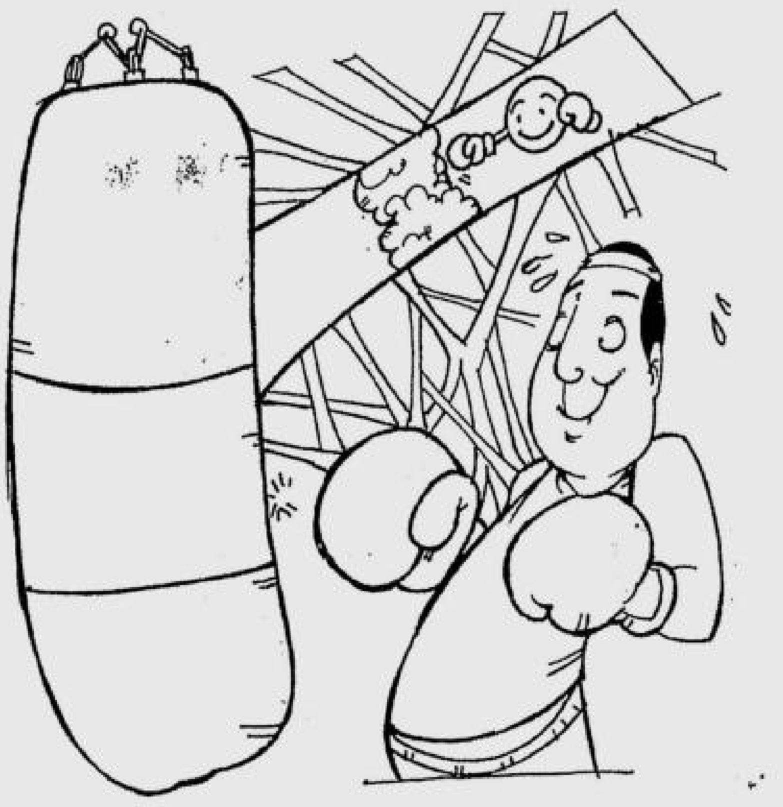
"It is only later in life that this condition manifests in the form of a coronary artery disease, stroke, transient ischemic attack and PAD," said Dalangin.

The two doctors suggest that if an individual possess the risk factors for atherothombosis, he should make an effort to have himself examined "before it's too late."

Durante said that although there are risk factors that cannot be changed (like age and genetics), there are steps one can take to control or modify the risks of developing atherothrombosis. These include controlling high blood cholesterol level and high blood pressure, modifying eating habits, managing weight, reducing alcohol intake, quitting smoking, exercising, and managing stress.

"Lifestyle changes such as losing weight, exercising, and reducing intake of fat and cholesterol can slow or even slightly reverse the process of clogging arteries. These are three of the easiest lifestyle changes one can make to reduce risk of atherothrombosis," said Dalangin.

Those who are at high risk for developing serious complications must be on a continuous, daily medication of anticoagulant (blood thinning) drugs like aspirin and antiplatelet drugs (like clopidogrel) to prevent the development of harmful blood clots, he said.



Math Challenge

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

(Conclusion)

LAST WEEK we looked at sample questions and the winners of the 2005 Metrobank-MTAP-Dep Ed Math Challenge, now on its eighth year. The national finals for Grade Six and Fourth Year High School students were held at the Metrobank Plaza last April 9.

Chito Sobrepeña, president of Metrobank Foundation, reports, "We take pride that in this competition the rewards are indeed substantive for it offers intangible and significant incentives not only to the coaches and students, but to the larger community as well. With our elementary and high school students lagging behind in international surveys on math and science proficiencies, the Math Challenge is our humble and distinct contribution in helping increase the interest and enhance mathematical skills of our youth.

"None of these we could have done without our strong partnership with the Mathematics Association of the Philippines (MTAP) and the Department of Education.

Significant strides

"Since 1997, our successful tripartite partnership has made significant strides in making the competition more attractive and beneficial for both the students and their coaches. In addition to cash prizes totaling almost half a million for different level winners, our top three placers also received medals and trophies for their schools. In recognition of the coaches' dedication, patience, and perseverance in harnessing the skills of our young mathematicians, they also received cash incentives during the regional and national finals, regardless of whether their wards won in the particular round or not.

"With these, we can truly say that our Math Challenge this year, while somehow difficult, provided a rare opportunity for our young to become not only the best mathematicians our country will produce, but more importantly, better citizens who will lead the way in shaping a better generation of Filipinos."

High school winners

The gold medallists in the fourth year high school team competition were Sam Christian G. Lee and Charles O. Ang (Chiang Kai Shek College, Manila), coached by Sanet S. Hipolito. Silver medallists were Elvis T. Chua and Francisco F. Lee (Zamboanga Chong Hua High School, Zamboanga City), coached by Samuel Gayangos. Bronze medallists were Mark Alvin C. Bayag and Patricia Marie B. Avila (Philippine Science High School-Western Visayas, Iloilo City), coached by Jose Ariel S. Serrato.

In the individual competition, Sam Christian Lee, Jon Henri A. Ma (Trinity Christian School, Bacolod City), coached by Xervin Ceballos, and Elvis T. Chua were the top students, in that order.

Actual problems

Why don't you try your hand at solving the actual problems faced by the contestants? In 15 seconds, answer each of the following questions:

- A book is to have 100 pages. How many times will the digit 2 be used in numbering the pages of the book? [Answer: 20]
- A certain number of students are to be accommodated in a hostel. If two students share each room, then two students will be left without a room. If three students share each room, then two rooms will be left vacant. How many rooms are there? [Answer: 8 rooms]
- All the rain which falls on a building's roof is collected in a rectangular tank with a cross section 2 meters by 1.5 meters. If 5 millimeters of rain falls on the flat roof, which has a total area of 3,000 square meters, then the level of water in the tank increases by how much? [Answer: 5 meters]

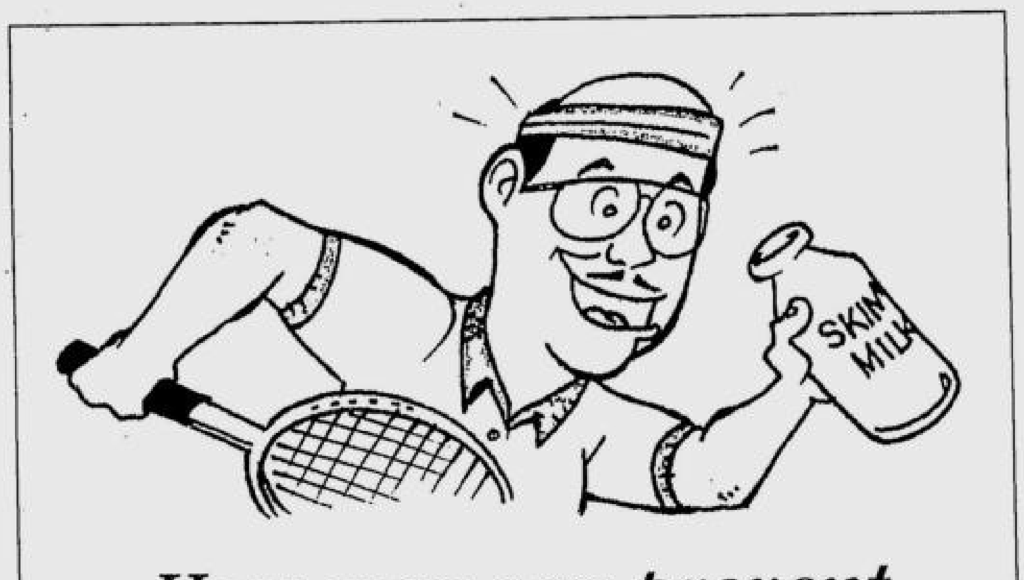
In 30 seconds, answer the following questions:

- Let LMNO be a square. Point P is inside the square such that NOP is an equilateral triangle. Find the measure of angle PMN. [Answer: 75 degrees]
- Find the values of k so that the lines $3x + 6ky - 7 = 0$ and $9kx + 8y - 14 = 0$ have the same slope. [Answer: k is equal to 2/3 or -2/3.]
- In right triangle ABC, altitude CD is drawn to the hypotenuse AB. If CD equals 12 cm and AD exceeds DB by 7, find AD. [Answer: 16 cm]

More problems

In one minute, solve the following problems:

- Convex quadrilateral ABCD has AB = AD = 25 cm, CB = CD = 52 cm, and DB = 40 cm. How long is AC? [Answer: 63 cm]
- On triangle ABC, let D be on side AB and E on side AC such that DE is parallel to BC. If the area of triangle ADE is equal to the area of the trapezoid BDEC, what is the ratio of AD to AB? [Answer: 1 is to square root of 2.]
- If Susan drives to work at x kilometers per hour, she will be one minute late; if she drives at y kilometers per hour, she will be one minute early. How far does she drive to work (in kilometers)? [Answer: $xy/(30y - 30x)$]



How men can prevent prostate cancer, diabetes

CHICAGO—Men should exercise vigorously at least three hours a week to stem potentially fatal cases of prostate cancer and consume daily helpings of low-fat dairy foods to hold off diabetes, two studies said.

In one study that used 14 years worth of data on nearly 48,000 men working in the health field, researchers found a 70 percent lower risk of advanced or fatal cases of prostate cancer among men aged 65 or older who exercised vigorously at least three hours per week.

"Although the mechanisms still need to be understood, these findings suggest that vigorous activity could slow the progression of prostate cancer and might be recommended to reduce mortality from prostate cancer, particularly given the many other documented benefits of exercise," wrote Dr. Edward Giovannucci of the Harvard School of Public Health.

Participants—including nearly 3,000 who developed prostate cancer—were asked how much time they spent walking or hiking, running, bicycling, lap swimming, rowing, playing tennis, squash or racquetball, or engaging in calisthenics.

Giovannucci said some previous studies have indicated a tenuous link between exercise and a lowered risk of prostate cancer, though the association was often not significant.

The study found no overall relationship between exercise and the disease except for a lowered risk of advanced and fatal cases of prostate cancer among men aged 65 or older who were in the highest category of physical activity. The association was not seen among younger men.

Skim milk better

The second study used data from the same survey of health workers to conclude that consumption of low-fat dairy products—especially skim milk—lowered men's risk of developing adult-onset diabetes.

Each added daily serving of low-fat dairy products was associated with a 9 percent lower risk for diabetes, the report said.

"In conclusion, dietary patterns characterized by higher dairy intake, especially low-fat dairy intake, may lower the risk of [adult onset] diabetes," wrote study author Hyon Choi of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Ingredients in dairy products may help the body use insulin to process blood sugar. Adult-onset diabetes results from the body's inability to use insulin or a decline in insulin production.

Both studies appeared in this month's Archives of Internal Medicine.

Reuters

Mangoes, other vitamin E-rich food may help protect vs Parkinson's

PARIS—Diets that are rich in vitamin E may help protect against Parkinson's, the neurodegenerative disease that afflicted Pope John Paul II, a study suggests.

People who had moderate to high amounts of vitamin E in their diets were less likely to develop Parkinson's, while vitamin C and beta carotene seemed to have no effect, it says.

But pills and other supplements of vitamin E—as opposed to vitamin E that occurs naturally in food—may not have this protective effect, it says.

The paper is a so-called meta-analysis, or an overview of previous studies that have been carried out into Parkinson's and nutrition. Its authors trawled through two big databases to find eight research projects in this area, spanning 1966 to March 2005.

Vegetable oil, nuts, fruits

People who had a pronounced intake of vitamin E in their diets were 19 percent less likely to develop Parkinson's.

Vitamin E is found in vegetable oils, nuts and green leafy vegetables, such as spinach and broccoli, as well as peanut butter and fruit such as kiwi and mangoes, according to the US National Institutes of Health website.

The study is published online by The Lancet Neurology, a specialist journal that is a stablemate of the British medical weekly The Lancet.

Its authors, led by Mahyar Etminan, of the Royal Victoria Hospital and McGill University in Montreal, Canada, are cautious about drawing firm conclusions given that only a small number of studies into the impact of vitamins on Parkinson's have been assessed.

They warn that before doctors recommend any shift in diets, the results would have to be confirmed by a large trial to compare the outcome of matched people who have different levels of dietary vitamin E and are then monitored to see whether they develop the disease.

Loss of brain cells

Parkinson's is a currently incurable, degenerative disease of the nervous system, affecting more than one percent of people over 65. It occurs when there is a loss of cells in a part of the brain that produces dopamine, a neurotransmitter that communicates with other brain cells which regulate motor functions. Symptoms range from tremors and awkwardness and muscular stiffness to a distinctive shuffling gait.

The cause of the cell loss is unknown. The current speculation is that a basket of factors—aging, genetic predisposition and environmental exposure—may be to blame.

Oxidative stress

One area of research is into oxidative stress: the creation of rogue molecules called free radicals that are associated with cell damage. Vitamins are called antioxidants for their ability to combat these dangerous agents.

The authors suggest that vitamin E may be more effective in naturally occurring form rather than as a supplement because it is a slightly different molecule that is more "bioactive" than its synthetic counterpart.

As to why vitamin C—a highly powerful antioxidant—does not appear to combat the risk of Parkinson's, the authors suggest that the molecule may get filtered out by barriers to the brain, thus diminishing its "neuroprotective potential."

AFP

Breastfeeding best for healthy heart

PARIS—Children who are exclusively breastfed in infancy enjoy the equivalent benefits in cardiac health as those who exercise regularly and restrict their salt intake, a study suggests.

The benefit was spotted in research carried out in Denmark and Estonia into nearly 2,200 children aged 9 to 15 to identify risk factors for coronary heart disease.

Breastfeeding scored best on systolic blood pressure—one of the two key indicators of cardiac wellbeing.

Children who were exclusively breastfed for six months had a much lower systolic reading than counterparts who had been partially breastfed or fed only infant formula. And the longer the child had been breastfed, the better the score.

But breastfeeding had no apparent impact on levels of cholesterol or insulin resistance, a precursor to diabetes.

The study appears in the Archives of Disease in Childhood, a specialist British publication.

The lead author is Debbie Lawlor of the University of Bristol's Department of Social Medicine in western England.

AFP

1 out of 3 women suffering from heart disease—PHA

By Tessa R. Salazar

CARDIOVASCULAR disease (CVD) is still the No. 1 killer of women, and the incidence of the disease is increasing worldwide.

Out of 16.9 million individuals who died from cardiovascular disease all over the world in 1999, 8.9 million were women, according to the World Health Organization report in 2000.

High risk

More than 45,000 women died of CVD in the Philippines in 2001. And because of Filipino women's penchant for making themselves last priority over their husband's and children's health, the risk of women suffering from CVD without them knowing it or at least without a doctor's guidance remains high.

Up to the age of 45, however, women are somewhat immune to heart disease, since their hormones have been observed to play a protective role. When menopause sets in, however, the risk of developing CVD becomes more or less equal across both sexes.

Participating cardiologists at the Philippine Heart Association's "Puso sa Puso Media Health Forum" held May 25 at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel reiterated the dangers of CVD among post-menopausal women. The forum also launched PHA Council on Women's Health.

Dr. Esperanza Cabral, former president of PHA and the Philippine Society of Hypertension, observed that when heart doctors asked wives of their male patients, most of the women would brush off the question as if they were immune to CVD.

"It's like seeing women hitching on a motorcycle with no helmet on while their male partners are in full protective gear," she lamented.

Cabral cited that in developed countries, public relations efforts related to CVD have been aimed primarily at male populations. As a result, the prevalence of coronary risk factors and the number of CVD deaths have declined in men but not in women.

CVD is an important cause of disability but many women and their physicians underestimate the risks of CVD for women.

"CVD deaths in women are four to eight times higher than deaths from breast and ovarian cancers, and because public campaigns have emphasized breast cancer risks, many women are more afraid of breast cancer than of coronary artery disease," said Cabral in a speech before fellow cardiologists and the press.

More to fear

Members of the PHA Council on Women's Health also stressed that women have far more to fear from heart disease, which is poised to strike one out of every three women.

The PHA Council on Women's Health, which is Cabral's brainchild, also reported that men are more likely to be offered treatment to prevent subsequent heart attacks. As a result, the number of cardiovascular deaths would more likely decrease in men, but not in women. Compared to men, women are more likely to be misdiagnosed and are more likely to die of their first heart attack.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, the keynote speaker on the forum, cited three action plans for women's health on the Senate:

- Establish research office on women.
- Report on the effects of the environment on the health of women.
- Establish an office of women's health at the Department of Health.

54% Filipino women obese

The Food and Nutrition Research Institute also warned of a risk factor for CVD prevalent among over half of all Filipino women: obesity. According to FNRI, 54 percent of adult Filipino women are obese.

"This means they have a high waist-hip ratio. It is abdominal obesity that (determines) who is at risk for cardiovascular disease," said FNRI research head Fely Velandria.

Velandria added that obesity among women has been consistently rising in the past five years.

Physical inactivity has also been identified as the most common risk factor for coronary artery disease in women.

Cabral pointed out that the risk of CAD is low in younger women, but increases significantly after menopause. The peak incidence of heart attack and stroke occurs about 10 years later than in men.

"Thus when women do develop coronary artery disease, they usually have more co-morbidity because they are usually older on presentation," she added.

Cabral also said this would contribute to the fact that women are more likely to die of a first heart attack, and survivors would experience more long-term disability as well as higher rates of reinfarction (recurrence) and death. Atrial fibrillation, an irregularity of the heart rhythm, increases the risk of stroke in older women.

Medical updates

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

I USUALLY get my medical and scientific updates by attending conventions, reading journals and discussing with my fellow doctors. I also get practical nuggets of information from medical writers in lay publications such as my colleagues in this section and our writers in the Health & Lifestyle magazine.

Sherma Benosa is one of our researchers and writers whose passion for reading medical journals and health publications keeps her medically updated. All I need is to ask her is, "What's new, Sherma?" and she speedily e-mails me 30,000 bytes of her recent readings. Here's a capsulized sampling of them.

Solving sleep problems helps epileptic children

Sleep problems may explain why children with epilepsy are often hyperactive, suggest researchers at the University of Florida.

Twenty-two of the children studied met clinical criteria for inattention or hyperactivity. All had a sleep disorder, 14 had problems paying attention during the day, and eight had hyperactive symptoms. When the kids with sleep disturbances were treated, their epilepsy got better and their daytime behavior, concentration and capacity to learn increased.

Rate of type 2 diabetes in children increasing

An article published in the Journal of Pediatrics reports that the rate of type 2 diabetes among children worldwide has increased significantly over the last 15 years.

University of Colorado researchers reviewed published articles and reports on type 2 diabetes in children and adolescents between 1978 and 2004. They found that type 2 diabetes accounts for up to 45 percent of new cases among adolescents.

Weight gain, poor nutrition and lack of exercise are factored in as main causes of diabetes.

Why nuts are good

Go nuts with nuts

Nuts are good for the heart, say researchers from Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health.

According to the study, healthy men and those who have already suffered a heart attack can reduce cardiovascular risk by eating nuts regularly.

Researchers hypothesize that:

- Nuts contain mono- and polyunsaturated fats known to benefit the heart.
- The omega-3 fats found in walnuts may protect against irregular heart rhythms.
- Nuts are rich in arginine, a substance that may improve blood vessel function.
- Other nutrients in nuts (such as fiber and other vitamins) may also help lower cardiovascular risk.

By themselves, nuts seem to produce modest declines in cholesterol, but when combined with other healthful foods, the results can be dramatic.

Breakfast and good grades

Breakfast is good for school-aged kids

Children who consistently eat breakfast have better nutritional profiles and have better memory, test grades and school attendance than those who skip breakfast, shows a study by a group of University of Florida researchers.

The study also found that breakfast-eaters are generally less likely to be overweight despite the fact that they consume more calories each day.

Babies' cries may predict sudden death risk

A simple analysis of babies' cries can provide a better understanding of their neurological and medical status, researchers say.

In a review in Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, researchers looked at previous studies that analyzed the acoustics of a baby's cry. Researchers found that high resonance and changes in the cry mode were consistent markers associated with sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

Resonance is the characteristic of a sound's richness and depth that helps humans distinguish a C note on a piano versus a guitar, while mode changes are noisy, broken-sounding cries that indicate poor neural control of the vocal tract.

Resonance is better identified by a computerized analysis of the cry signal than by human perception.

Autism and fatherhood

Autistic kids benefit from dads' involvement

According to a study published in the Nursing Research, a father's interaction with his autistic child in a home setting can increase the child's number of intelligible vocabulary by more than 50 percent.

Why yogurt is good for you

- One eight-ounce cup of plain low-fat yogurt provides around 400 mg of calcium, more than the 300 mg in an eight-ounce glass of milk.
- Yogurt has as much potassium as a banana and as much protein as an egg or ounce of meat.
- The live bacteria in yogurt help in digestion and protect you against other harmful bacteria.

'Let the sunshine in?'

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

"HERE comes the sun/And I say, it's all right..." The Beatles sang these lines decades ago and now cancer researchers are singing along with them. Recent studies have suggested that vitamin D could play an important role in not just preventing but also treating several types of cancer.

Small Phase 2 clinical studies done in 1998 and 2003 suggest that 1,25(OH)2D, an active form of vitamin D, can slow the development of advanced prostate cancer. Studies involving colorectal cancer have also demonstrated that vitamin D can help protect against the development of this disease.

Ways to get vitamin D

There are several ways to get vitamin D. Drinking milk is probably the first thing that comes to mind. Staying in the sun for several minutes is another way, though with all the warnings about skin cancer, is probably not the idea most dermatologists would come up with first. Sunlight provides exposure to UV-B, which, along with (fortified) foods and supplements such as multivitamins, are the main sources of vitamin D for humans. In the liver, the form of vitamin D derived from external sources can then be converted into 25(OH)D and 1,25(OH)2D.

But sunshine as a means of getting one's daily dose of vitamin D is now being advocated by several scientists, among them Michael Holick of the Department of Nutrition at the Boston University Medical Center and Edward Giovannucci of the Departments of Medicine and Nutrition at Harvard University.

Dependent on several factors

To be fair, pro-sunshine researchers aren't suggesting that people stay out in the sun for hours without protection. UV-B exposure is dependent on several factors: geographical location; outdoor exposure—how long and what time of day; skin pigmentation; and weight.

In an interview posted Jan. 1 of this year on the website http://newstarget.com, Michael Holick, whose book "The UV Advantage" was published last year, says that Caucasians in London in the summer, which is "much further north than we are in the United States, about 10 degrees further north in latitude, so the sun's rays are even weaker, ... probably would need a good 30 to 60 minutes of exposure of arms and legs, or hands face and arms, 2-3 times per week." The melanin in an African, on the other hand, naturally protects him against UV rays for several minutes, so he would need to stay out in the sun for a much longer period of time in order for UB-V rays from the sun to produce vitamin D in the body.

Holick notes that people should be getting about 1,000 IUs of vitamin D a day, but aren't getting it. To rectify the situation, he suggests that people spend some time out in the sun—or, if you can't to use a tanning bed—on a daily basis in order to get the vitamin D they need. His arguments, however, have to be taken with a grain of salt as his research has been partially funded by the tanning industry.

Higher intakes of vitamin D

On the other hand, when Giovannucci, who has similar beliefs, spoke at the American Association for Cancer Research's (AACR) annual meeting held in Anaheim, California last month, he made it clear from the beginning that he had no such financial interests that might suggest a bias in his work.

According to Giovannucci, based on recent studies that he reviewed in the March issue of the journal Cancer Causes and Control, people need about 1,500 IU of vitamin D3, though the ideal amount has yet to be determined. "If we really tell people to avoid sun exposure," he said, "and if the vitamin D hypotheses is true, then maybe we really need to consider much higher intakes of vitamin D." If people don't go out in the sun, he added, they may need to ingest as much as 2,000 IUs.

"Sun, sun, sun, here it comes..."

Worldwide reactions to the news that sunlight could help prevent cancers has been mixed. In his talk, Giovannucci noted that the ratio of annual deaths in the United States caused by oral-digestive or female reproductive cancers to melanoma and other skin cancers is 30:1, suggesting the benefits may far outweigh the costs.

"Probably no other inexpensive nontoxic intervention has the potential to prevent as many cancer deaths as vitamin D, so resolution of this hypotheses should be a high priority," he concluded, calling for studies on, among other things, the effect of vitamin D on female reproductive cancers and the "possible benefit of vitamin D in cancer incidence, mortality, and maybe survival." Hopefully the public interest in this topic will inspire more researchers to look into this topic and provide more information.

* * *

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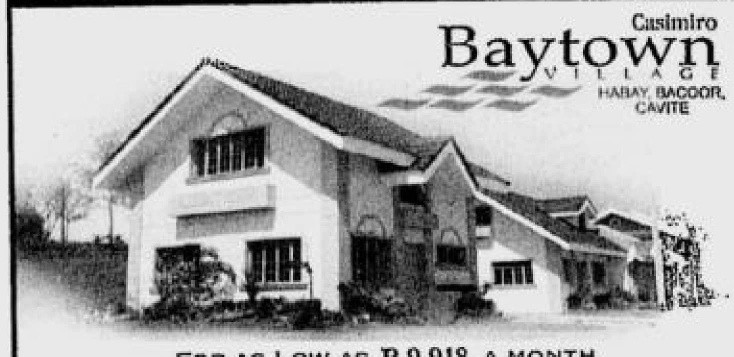

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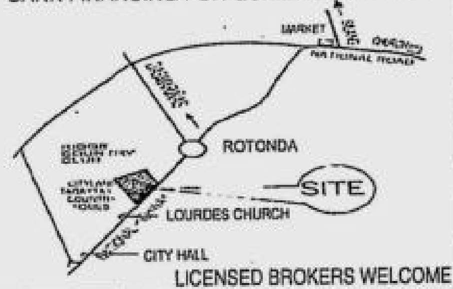

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2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

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2% w/out taking car 5315577

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased Felicidad Rasco Tam was the subject of extrajudicial settlement by her heirs as per Doc. No. 40 , Page No. 7, Book No. I. Series of 2005 before Notary Public Luis D. Dictado of Daet, Camarines Norte, as authenticated by Roberto F. Bernardo, Vice Consul, Consulate General of The Phil. City of Chicago, State of Illinois USA on Feb. 11, 2005 as per OR #2969810 , Service #3753 as per Doc. No. 644 ; PageNo. 25 Series of 2005 and Angelo S. Macalangay, M.D. Honorary Consul General, Phil. Honorary Consulate, City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA, Feb. 22, 2005 as per Doc. No. 465, Series of 2005, Or.No. 2726866
(PDI- May 28, June 4 & 16, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CATALINA JAVIER was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 93, Page No. 21, Book No. 93, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Domingo Tejero of Pasig City.
(PDI-May 21, 28 & June 4, 2005)

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MALE/FEMALE

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APPLY: May 30 & 31, 2005 at 9:30 AM or 2:30 PM
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is now hiring: **Female**

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- 21 years old and above

Submit or email resumé on or before June 3, 2005 to
bobljang@hotmail.com
or call at 8121810
Address: Unit 1804 18th Flr. Pearl Bank Centre, 146 Valero St., Makati City

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues.
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-100

RE Application for grant of certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

ADELA A. JARQUE,
Applicant.
x--------------------------x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

FOR TRAMP OPERATION:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s Offered/ to be Offered
MV EDUARDO ANTONIO	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only

The Applicant shall cause then publication of this order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspaper of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships Applicant's premises, passengers terminals and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on June 03, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor. 11th and 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE) Afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 26th day of May 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI - May 28, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-088

RE Application for grant of certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

CEBU BARGE & TUG, INC.,
Applicant.
x----------------------x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

FOR TRAMP OPERATION:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s Offered/to be Offered
M/T SEA FALCON	Any ports in the Phils	For towing/tugging purposes
M/T WANDERER	Any ports in the Phils	For towing/tugging purposes
M/T MARINERO	Any ports in the Phils	For towing/tugging purposes
M/T TIMONEL	Any ports in the Phils	For towing/tugging purposes
BARGE SALVMAR-I	Any ports in the Phils	Carriage of cargoes only
BARGE SALVMAR-II	Any ports in the Phils	Carriage of cargoes only
BARGE SALVMAR-III	Any ports in the Phils	Carriage of cargoes only

The Applicant shall cause then publication of this order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspaper of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships Applicant's premises, passengers terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on June 03, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor. 11th and 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE) Afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 24th day of May 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI-May 28 2005)

WANTED
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

If you are female, single, 22-32 years old, at least 5'3" in height, fair complexion, presentable, good integrity, responsible, intelligent, excellent oral and written English, college educated (good knowledge of MS Office Applications), willing to travel abroad, with a passion for work and life, a JOB is waiting for you in an INTERNATIONAL COMPANY with offices in Ortigas, very good working conditions and excellent compensation.

If needed, Company is willing to provide housing in Pasig
APPLY NOW! Send your RESUMÉ with PHOTO to
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PIONEER
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that Provisional Receipt booklet #3728 covering PR numbers 150626-150650 assigned to agent **Delfin T. Bonifacio** has been lost and any transactions made through the said PR booklet shall no longer be honored.

Pioneer Life Inc.
Pioneer House Makati, 108 Paseo de Roxas,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel: 812-7777; Fax: 812-2880

(PDI - May 28, 2005)

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MANUFACTURING CORP.
Block C #9 K, Porong Street, Punturin
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One (1) ACCOUNTING STAFF

- M/F at least 25-30 years old, BS Accountancy, board passer preferred
- Minimum two years experience in Accounts Management and Financial Analysis
- Proficient in English oral and written communication
- Computer literate a must.

One (1) ACCOUNTING OFFICER:

- M/F graduate of BS Accountancy, 30 years and above, CPA board passer
- At least 5 years managerial experience in the field of accounting (Accounts Management and Financial Analysis)
- Well versed in government accounting and government procurement procedure
- Strong leadership and highly analytical
- Effective in English oral and written communication, Cantonese speaking an advantage

Applications accepted from Mondays-Fridays,
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues.
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-086

RE Application for grant of certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

SALVMARINE CORPORATION,
Applicant.
x--------------------------------------x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

FOR TRAMP OPERATION:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s Offered/ to be Offered
D/BARGE LOADMASTER	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only
MT SEA LION	Any ports in the Philippines	For towing/tugging purposes

The Applicant shall cause then publication of this order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspaper of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships Applicant's premises, passengers terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on June 03, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor 11th and 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE) Afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision

WITNESS the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 24th day of May 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI - May 28, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor 11th & 13th Avenues.
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-087

RE: Application for grant of certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

CEBU METAL CORPORATION,
Applicant.
x--------------------------------------x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

FOR TRAMP OPERATION:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s Offered/ to be Offered
D/BARGE RECOVERER	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only

The Applicant shall cause then publication of this order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspaper of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships Applicant's premises, passengers terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on June 03, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor 11th and 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE). Afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision

WITNESS the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 24th day of May 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI - May 28, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

1. Name of Project : **Renovation, construction, and finishing works of the Senate Lounge**
2. Location : 2nd Floor, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City
3. Approved Budget : Php 2 Million
4. Date of Completion : July 20, 2005
5. Viewing of the area : anytime from Monday - Thursday, between 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (c/o Mr. Joel Lopido, tel. no. 552-6601 local 6125)
6. Pre-bidding Conference : June 2, 2005, 2:00 p.m.

The bid documents shall be available to interested contractors at the BAC Secretariat Office, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City starting May 30, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P300.00. Also, bid bulletins on the schedules of opening of bids and other information will be sent through fax.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

This invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at www.procurementservice.org.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro or Jo Costo).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - May 28 & 29, 2005)

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Job Market will host - **Jobs@D'Mall.VisMin** – a special job fair-cum-seminar series at the **Ayala Center Cebu on June 21 to 24, 2005**, the largest and most awaited job fair for the Visayas and Mindanao region. The one-day Seminar Series hosted by **John Clements Consultants, Inc.** will be followed by an **Employment Expo on June 22 to 24**. This event will coincide with **Cebu ICT 2005**, an international conference and exhibition focusing on ICT and ITES.

We would like to invite your company to join in this worthwhile investment as a participant. Attached herewith are the details of the three (3) packages that we offer. Simply choose one suited to your company's needs and

Package A (Php 35,000.00)
- 1 booth measuring 2m x 3m (6 square meters)
- 1/8 page (3 cols x 20 cms) ad in Inquirer's Job Market
- ¼ page (3 cols x 18 cms) ad in Cebu Daily News
- 3 weeks online exposure in jobmarketonline.com

Package B (P20,000.00)
- 1 booth measuring 2m x 2m (4 square meters)
- 1/16 page (3 cols x 10 cms) ad in Inquirer's Job Market
- 1/8 page (3 cols x 9 cms) ad in Cebu Daily News
- 3 weeks online exposure in jobmarketonline.com

Package C
- for a minimum ½ page placement in Inquirer's Job Market, the advertiser will get one (1) FREE booth measuring 2m x 2m

DEADLINE for Booth Reservation: June 10, 2005

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CEBU DAILY NEWS: Mamai Duran ☎ (032) 232-7618 Abby Caruana ☎ (032) 232-0033

CloseUp to unveil one-of-a-kind model search

AFTER the record-breaking Lovapalooza and Wow! Whattamouth campaigns, CloseUp is launching another big and exciting event! CloseUp is now searching nationwide for fresh, young faces to be the next CloseUp couple. To join "CloseUp To Fame: The Search for the Next CloseUp Couple", simply log on to www.closeupplanet.com to download an application form. College-aged individuals 18-23 years old, possessing a killer CloseUp smile and a great personality, can head on to SM Megamall (Atrium, Upper Ground Level, Building B) today, May 28 and tomorrow, May 29 to see if they've got what it takes to be the next CloseUp stars. Submit the form along with any colored 2x2 photo and any CloseUp pack. Simply flash that confident smile in front of a panel of judges and endorse CloseUp in your own CloseUp confident way! Only 24 finalists, who possess killer smiles, great personalities, wit and CloseUp confidence, will have the opportunity to outwit, outshine and outsmile one another in the next round! Aspirants outside Metro Manila can also try out for this opportunity of a lifetime on June 4 and 5 at SM Cebu (Atrium, Lower Ground Level), SM Davao (Entertainment Plaza, Second Level) and Plaza Quezon in Naga. The guy and girl that will emerge victorious from this unique and exciting search will become the next fresh, young faces to flash their captivating smiles on TV. Other great prizes and opportunities also await the winning pair. Who will be the next upcoming stars that will charm their way into the hearts of Pinoys? Watch out for the unveiling of CloseUp to Fame: The Search for the Next CloseUp Couple this June!

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Scope of Work

Policy Specialist

Background:

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*. It is the main activity for achieving IR2, *Provision of quality services by private and commercial providers expanded* by focusing on three components: 1) increased workplace support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers. PRISM also supports IR 4, *Policy environment and financing for provision of services improved.*

Each component of the PRISM project includes needs for policy interventions that will improve the environment for private sector FP programs and services. The Policy Specialist will be responsible for defining and implementing approaches to meet these project needs in the context of each of the three components.

General Tasks:

1. Review the PRISM technical proposal and other relevant background documentation, including USAID/Philippines strategic plan, documents from other relevant projects in the Philippines (past and present) such as CMS, LEAD for Health and TSAP-FP, health policy analyses and initiatives, the PRISM 1st annual work plan (when completed), DHS reports, etc.
2. Contribute to annual project work planning processes by identifying policy issues for project-supported FP program and service issues and developing strategies and activities to deal with them.
3. Oversee implementation of project activities related to FP policy issues.
4. Collaborate with the PRISM M&E Specialist to monitor and evaluate policy activities.
5. Work with the project's MIS Specialist to develop and maintain a database of policy initiatives, activities, and results.
6. Work with the Financing Specialist to identify health/FP financing policy issues to be included in the project's policy agenda, policy change objectives, and to develop strategies to achieve those objectives.
7. Work with the PRISM Gender Specialist to ensure that gender perspectives are properly incorporated into all policy activities of the project.
8. Work with PRISM technical and management staff to develop approaches and strategies to anticipate, prevent and counteract potential opposition to project activities from social forces such as faith-based groups.
9. Complete other tasks and assignments as deemed appropriate by the Deputy Chief of Party.

Specific Tasks

Cross-Component Tasks

1. Develop policy agenda for PRISM, taking into account agendas of other USAID projects.
2. Conduct policy analyses and policy dialogue in support of the project policy agenda.
3. Work with the Social Mobilization Specialist to develop and implement policy dialogue and social mobilization strategies.
4. Develop and communicate policy issues, analyses and recommendations to the LEAD for Health project with respect to private sector FP programs and services.
5. Meet regularly with LEAD for Health to monitor progress on policy change initiatives, to advise on how to discern between policies that are supportive and obstructive of private sector FP programs and services, and to determine means by which PRISM can support those initiatives.
6. Based on project progress each year and changes in the policy and program environment, update the project's policy agenda as part of each year's stakeholder consultation and work planning process.

Component 1: Workplace

1. Work with the BCC and Social Mobilization Specialists to develop approaches that prepare business owners and the media to discuss, cover and support policies that are supportive of family planning at the broad, social level as well as in the workplace.

Component 2: Market Development

1. Coordinate with the Market Development Director and the major pharmaceutical manufacturers associations to develop an analytic base to support campaigns for policy change to allow brand advertising and ease the regulatory burden of new FP product entry into the market.

Component 3: Private Practice

1. Work with the Private Practice Director and the Social Mobilization and Finance Specialists to encourage PhilHealth, HMOs, and other employee health insurance companies to expand the range of family planning products and services covered.
2. Work with the Private Practice Director to identify and address policy barriers that impede expansion of private provision of family planning services.
3. Work with the Private Practice Director, IMAP, MFPI, and WPFI to identify policy priorities and prepare analyses that lead to allowing trained midwives to provide one-stop-shops for hormonal injections.

Reporting:

The Policy Specialist will report directly to Chemonics' Technical Operations Director or her designee, who will be responsible for monitoring the advisor's overall performance.

Qualifications:

- With at least 5 years experience in policy development processes for family planning and reproductive health
- Preferably with masteral degree in the social sciences, preferably in the field of health sciences
- Excellent in written and oral communications
- Proficient in Word, Excel, Powerpoint

Please email all resumés at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 8th June 2005.

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Privatization and Management Office (PMO) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and, if found eligible, to Bid for the hiring of a FINANCIAL ADVISOR for the privatization of Radio Philippines Network, Inc. (RPN).

Interested parties may secure the Eligibility and Bid Documents from the Marketing Department, 5th Floor, PMO Building, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

The schedule of activities is as follows:

Particular	Date	Time
Issuance of Eligibility and to Bid Documents	May 30, 2005	8:30 a.m.
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Documents	June 7, 2005	5:30 p.m.
Opening and Submission of Bids	June 27, 2005	10:00 a.m.

Only Eligible/Pre-qualified parties can participate in the Bidding on June 27, 2005, to be held at 6th Floor, PMO Conference Room.

For details, please contact Ms. Melinda B. Cortez of the PMO Marketing Department at telephone numbers 892-21-45 or 818-47-33.

The PMO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the PMO. The PMO likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(PDI—May 28, 29 & 30, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Bids will be accepted and thereafter opened on June 23, 2005 at the time set hereunder, at the Training Room, Main Building, Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, for the sale of the following SRA lots.

A. SRA Commercial Lots at Sugartowne, Batasan Hills, Q.C.

LOCATION	TCT	LOT AREA	COST/SQ.M.	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
Blk 5, Lot 12	238389	380 sqm.	P 6,500.00	P 2,470,000.00
Blk 29, Lot 1	238385	380 sqm.	6,500.00	2,470,000.00
Blk 15, Lot 38	133294	779 sqm.	6,000.00	4,674,000.00
Blk 33	133888	2,499 sqm.	6,000.00	14,994,000.00
		4,038 sqm.		P 24,608,000.00

B. Lot No. 2293-A in front of Villa Del Sol at Barangay Magliman, San Fernando, Pampanga:

LOCATION	TCT	LOT AREA	COST/SQ.M.	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
Lot No. 2293-A	96098-R	20,000 sqm.	P500.00	P10,000,000.00

Bid forms including the Rules and Regulations and other documents pertinent to the sale of lots at P1,000.00 per bid per individual lot shall be issued by the Secretariat, SRA Disposal Committee starting June 13, 2005.

Schedule of Activities	Date of Activity
Issuance of Letter of Intent and Pre-qualification Forms	May 31 – June 8, 2005
Deadline for the submission of Letter of Intent and Pre-qualification Requirements	June 9, 2005
Issuance of Bid Forms and the Rules and Regulations on the sale of lots	June 13, 2005
Pre-Bid Conference Sale of Sugartowne Commercial Lots and Magliman, San Fernando Lot	June 16, 2005 at 9:00 AM
Public Bidding Sale of Sugartowne Commercial Lots and Magliman, San Fernando Lot	June 23, 2005 at 9:00 AM

The purpose of the Pre-Bidding conference is to address issues regarding the disposal of the lots at the SRA, Training Room, North Avenue Diliman, Q.C.

All bids must be accompanied by a deposit either in cash or Manager's/Cashier's check equivalent to 10% of the total bid price.

For inquiries, please call
The Disposal Committee Secretariat • Tel. No. 929-6837

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or defect therein, and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to the SRA

(Sgd.) AIDA F. IGNACIO
Chairperson, Disposal Committee

(PDI – May 28, 29 & 30, 2005)

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Private Practice Services Expansion Director

The PRISM Project is seeking a Director for Expansion of Private Practice for Family Planning services. The overall scope of this position is to work with private practitioners and their organizations to expand private providers of family planning and health services; encourages policy changes among private sector agencies and regulating bodies; promotes and facilitates family planning services in private practice; works to expand private sector financing of these services; and develops and implements training programs for private practitioners.

Qualifications:

- Masters level education/training or its equivalent in business or public health administration, clinical medicine, or related technical fields.
- Thorough knowledge, including practical experience, of private sector health services particularly FP and RH.
- Minimum of 5 years experience working with private practitioners and their associations in implementing FP or health programs.
- Management skills and expertise to coordinate and collaborate with a diverse range of practitioners in the implementation of strategies to increase FP use in the private sector.
- Demonstrated leadership working with other technical advisors, local counterparts in the public and private sectors, policy makers, and project staff.
- Exceptional interpersonal, teamwork, written and verbal communication, and supervisory skills

Submit resumés by June 8, 2005 electronically to EngenderHealth, HR@EngenderHealth.org

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications

MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-015

RE : Application for Amendment of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) for Permanent Addition of a Route/Port/Link pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations

OCEAN FAST FERRIES, INC.,
Applicant.
x--------------------------------------x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for Amendment of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) on the permanent addition of route/port/link in particular the Larena-Tagbilaran-Iloilo-Bredco 2, Bacolod-Tagbilaran-Dumaguete-Camotes port/link with the following proposed amended sailing schedule:

Departure			Arrival		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Day	Time
Cebu	Daily	6:00 AM	Tagbilaran	Daily	7:40 AM
Tagbilaran	Daily	8:10 AM	Larena	Daily	9:40 AM
Larena	Daily	10:10 AM	Plandel	Daily	12:30 PM
Plandel	Daily	1:00 PM	Larena	Daily	3:20 PM
Larena	Daily	3:40 PM	Tagbilaran	Daily	5:10 PM
Tagbilaran	Daily	5:30 PM	Cebu	Daily	7:10 PM
Larena	Daily	5:50 AM	Tagbilaran	Daily	7:20 AM
Tagbilaran	Daily	7:30 AM	Cebu	Daily	9:20 AM
Cebu	Daily	9:35 AM	Hilongos	Daily	12:00 NN
Hilongos	Daily	1:20 PM	Cebu	Daily	2:40 PM
Cebu	Daily	5:30 PM	Hilongos	Daily	7:40 PM
Hilongos	Daily	6:10 PM	Cebu	Daily	8:30 PM
Cebu	Daily	9:00 AM	Tagbilaran	Daily	10:40 AM
Tagbilaran	Daily	11:10 AM	Cebu	Daily	12:50 PM
Cebu	Daily	1:20 PM	Tagbilaran	Daily	3:00 PM
Tagbilaran	Daily	3:20 PM	Cebu	Daily	5:00 PM
Cebu	Daily	5:30 PM	Tagbilaran	Daily	7:10 PM
Tagbilaran	Daily	7:30 PM	Larena	Daily	9:00 PM
Iloilo	Daily	6:00 AM	Bredco 2, Bacolod	Daily	7:10 AM
Bredco 2 Bacolod	Daily	7:40 AM	Iloilo	Daily	8:50 AM
Iloilo	Daily	9:20 AM	Bredco 2, Bacolod	Daily	10:30 AM
Bredco 2 Bacolod	Daily	11:00 AM	Iloilo	Daily	12:10 PM
Iloilo	Daily	12:40 PM	Bredco 2, Bacolod	Daily	1:50 PM
Bredco 2 Bacolod	Daily	2:20 PM	Iloilo	Daily	3:30 PM
Iloilo	Daily	4:00 PM	Bredco 2, Bacolod	Daily	5:00 PM
Bredco 2 Bacolod	Daily	5:30 PM	Iloilo	Daily	6:40 PM
Cebu	Daily	7:30 AM	Tagbilaran	Daily	9:10 AM
Tagbilaran	Daily	9:30 AM	Dumaguete	Daily	11:10 AM
Dumaguete	Daily	11:30 AM	Tagbilaran	Daily	1:10 PM
Tagbilaran	Daily	1:30 PM	Cebu	Daily	3:10 PM
Cebu	Daily	4:00 PM	Tagbilaran	Daily	5:40 PM
Tagbilaran	Daily	6:15 PM	Cebu	Daily	7:55 PM
Dumaguete	Daily	1:40 PM	Larena	Daily	2:30 PM
Larena	Daily	2:40 PM	Dumaguete	Daily	3:40 PM
Dumaguete	Daily	4:00 PM	Tagbilaran	Daily	5:30 PM
Dumaguete	Daily	11:30 AM	Larena	Daily	12:20 PM
Larena	Daily	12:30 PM	Dumaguete	Daily	1:20 PM
Dumaguete	Daily	1:40 PM	Tagbilaran	Daily	3:20 PM
Cebu	Daily	11:00 AM	Camotes	Daily	12:30 PM
Camotes	Daily	1:00 PM	Cebu	Daily	2:30 PM

* The schedules prescribed for application in Cebu-Tubigon, Bohol and vice versa route as per Decision dated 16 Mar 2005 shall remain the same

Rates on a per Link Basis

LINKS	RATES
Cebu City – Tubigon, Bohol	P 350.00
Bredco 2 Bacolod City – Iloilo City	P 350.00
Hilongos, Leyte – Cebu City	P 600.00
Cebu – Tagbilaran	P 590.00
Cebu – Larena	P 750.00
Tagbilaran – Larena	P 600.00
Cebu – Plandel	P 1,000.00
Larena – Plandel	P 590.00
Plandel – Tagbilaran	P 730.00
Cebu – Dumaguete	P 750.00
Cebu – Camotes	P 500.00
Dumaguete – Tagbilaran	P 600.00
Larena – Dumaguete	P 300.00

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspaper of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 02 June 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor. 11th and 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE). Afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR., this 25th day of May 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI - May 28, 2005)

Philippine Business for Social Progress

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date : May 28, 2005
Contract Identification No. PBSP-WSP-2005-001
World Bank Grant No. TF026783

1. The PARTNERSHIP OF PHILIPPINE SUPPORT SERVICE AGENCIES, INC. (PHILSSA) has received a grant from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of UPSCALING URBAN POOR COMMUNITY RENEWAL SCHEME-PROJECT and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for **COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM PROJECTS** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The **PHILIPPINE BUSINESS FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS (PBSP)**, the implementing Agency of PHILSSA invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of Elevated Water Tanks and Pumphouse facilities and Deepwell Drilling at Fishermen's Village, Sagayad Resettlement and Brgy. San Agustin all of San Fernando City, La Union.
3. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased at PBSP Luzon Regional Operations, PSDC Building, Magallanes corner Real St., Intramuros, Manila for a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may examine the bid documents and obtain further information at the same address. For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a Pre-bid Conference will be held on June 13, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at PBSP Head Office, PSDC Bldg. Magallanes corner Real St., Intramuros, Manila.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of 120 calendar days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of not less than 2.5% of the Bid and shall be delivered to PBSP-LRO at PSDC Bldg. Magallanes corner Real St., Intramuros, Manila on or before 1:00 p.m. June 29, 2005, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(PDI - May 28, 2005)

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Scope of Work

Market Development Manager, Visayas

Background:

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased workplace support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

The market development component (component 2) of the project will be implemented nationally and the Market Development Manager for Visayas will be responsible for supporting implementation of market development component activities in the Visayas region of the Philippines

General Tasks:

1. Review the project technical proposal and other relevant background documentation, including USAID/Philippines strategic plan, documents from other relevant projects in the Philippines (past and present) such as CMS, research results on marketing programs and initiatives, the project's 1st annual work plan (when completed), DHS reports, etc.
2. Participate in annual project work planning processes.
3. Collaborate with the M&E Specialist to monitor and evaluate central regional market development component activities.
4. Coordinate with the Visayas Workplace and Private Practice Managers to identify and capitalize on potential synergies in project implementation across components.
5. Coordinate with the Visayas Operations Manager for administrative and managerial matters.
6. Ensure that gender initiatives as defined by the Gender Specialist are properly implemented in all regional market development component activities.
7. Work with other technical and management staff to develop approaches and strategies to anticipate, prevent and counteract potential opposition to project activities from social forces such as faith-based groups.
8. Complete other tasks and assignments as deemed appropriate by the Market Development Director

Specific Tasks

Component 2: Market Development

1. Monitor and interpret trends in donated contraceptive products and sales of commercial and socially marketed contraceptive products. Make recommendations on implications of trends for market development component activities.
2. Coordinate with the Visayas Workplace and Private Practice Managers to identify market opportunities for distributors among workplaces, midwives, and other private practice providers, that are potential purchasers of their contraceptive products.
3. Establish working relationships and liaise with Visayas-based distributors and regional offices of Manila-based distributors.
4. Advise distributors of specific workplaces, midwives, and other private practice providers that are potential purchasers of their contraceptive products.
5. Under the direction of the Market Development Director, encourage manufacturers in Visayas to develop new FP methods and brands at affordable prices in order to take maximum advantage of market opportunities.
6. Work with the Visayas Private Practice Manager to liaise with drug stores to promote increased marketing and sales of FP products.

   Establish working relationships with local LEAD for Health project staff and their LGU counterparts. Obtain information about contraceptive marketing opportunities among LGUs, especially among LGUs than plan to target subsidized services to specific client groups and thereby generate a shift of some former public sector clients to other sources.
8. Advise distributors of contraceptive marketing opportunities among LGUs and as needed, provide technical assistance to establish business relationships between distributors and LGUs.
9. Plan and conduct workshops for distributors' sales forces (detail men) to motivate them to more actively promote their family planning commodities to private practice providers.
10. Participate in Visayas business association and provider association meetings to keep them abreast of project market development activities and emerging business opportunities for distributors.
11. Under the direction of the Market Development Director and the BCC Advisor, manage generic demand generation activities in Visayas.
12. Liaise with local health insurance organizations and regional offices of national health insurance organizations to identify opportunities to expand coverage of FP products and services.

Reporting:

The Market Development Manager, Visayas, will report directly to Chemonics' Market Development Director or her designee, who will be responsible for monitoring the manager's overall performance.

Qualifications:

- With at least 15 years experience in marketing of products in the commercial healthcare industry
- Networking experience with health provider associations, pharmaceutical industry associations, business organizations is an advantage
- With at least 10 years managerial experience
- Preferably resident of Cebu
- Excellent in written and oral communications
- Proficient in Word, Excel, Powerpoint

Please email all resumés at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 8th June 2005.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-00

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of:

35,000 bags UREA FERTILIZER
Commercial Grade – 45-0-0
Packed in 50-kilo bags lined with plastic
for Sugar-ACEF Related Projects
To be delivered to BAIS-URSUMCO MDDFI, Negros Oriental
Approved Budget for the Contract – Php 22,929,850.00

Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	May 30, 2005 – June 17, 2005 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. SRA Bidding Secretariat 3rd Floor Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City for non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	June 22, 2005 9:00 A.M. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission & Opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes	July 4, 2005 9:00 A.M. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

For particulars, please contact :
The Bidding Secretariat –Telephone No. 929-68-37

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI – May 28 & June 4, 2005)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SKM
GAIA SOUTH, INC. Environmental Consultants

METRO MANILA AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND CAPACITY BUILDING (ISCB) COMPONENTS

NOTICE TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

A major program to improve air quality in Metro Manila is currently being implemented with the support of the Asian Development Bank. One of its projects is tasked to strengthen the Government's Environmental Management Bureau in managing air pollution from industry. This project now invites Expression Of Interest from Philippine companies specializing in the design and development of customized software solutions.

Local companies capable of developing a system to manage documents and other information and track procedures from the Bureau's permitting and compliance programs are invited to register their interest. This system will use an Internet-based architecture and conform to specifications developed by the project.

For more details please download the Expression of Interest (EOI) template from www.emb.gov.ph/mmaqeoi/main.htm and submit it as per the Tendering Process outline at that address. Qualified short-listed candidates will then be invited to develop a full proposal based on our detailed specifications.

(Sgd.) BILL FARREL
Project Manager

(PDI – May 27 & 28, 2005)

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24-HR HOTLINES
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We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

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743-6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No. 712-2702

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

Esperanza P. Caramat

Was called home to the Lord
on May 25, 2005 at the age of 72.

She shall be missed by her devoted husband Remy; children Neng & Gani, Amie, Emily & Lito, Rommel (†), Mia, Rico & Leni; grandchildren Chingky, Jayjay & Jojo, R.A., Sue, Camille & Dara, Gelo & Lance, Erika, Kiko & Bosrick.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence located at 3902 Quingua St., Pinagkaisahan, Makati City.

Interment will be on May 31, 2005 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 12:00 p.m. Mass.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds' Advertising Hotlines:

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MAKATI:
892-5578;
811-4361;
811-4370

KALAW:
528-0213;
527-3342

MEGAMALL:
635-0219;
635-0220

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.

In loving memory of

ROSITA HUGO PEREZ

who died in the Grace of our Lord
on May 25, 2005 at the age of 65.

Her loving husband **Hon. Hermis "Boy" C. Perez**; children **Mhay**, **Hermie**, and **Maricel**; sons-in-law **Danny** and **Clint**; grandchildren **Danielle**, **Miggy**, **Celint** and **Cj** request the pious readers to please pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Golden Meadow Subd., San Antonio, Biñan, Laguna.

Interment will be on May 31, 2005, Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. after the Holy Mass at San Isidro Labrador Parish Church in Biñan.

EMELINDA LOCSIN VDA. DE GUZMAN

Now peacefully rests in the
Grace and Goodness of our Lord
on May 26, 2005 at the age of 77.

Her loving family **Josephine**, **Cristina**, **Inez**, **Rene**, **Roberto**, **Ramon**, **Wenceslao Jr.**; children-in-law **Jesse Gatchalian**, **Thomas Cross**, **Andreas Mattmuller**, **Aileen Lapuz de Guzman**; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on June 1, 2005 at the Bacolod Memorial Park after the celebration of the 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

> *"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*
>
> **John 14:6**

Message of thanks

We, the family of the late

MRS. TIU YAP SIOK CHIENG

(Peacefully joined our Lord on May 13, 2005 at the age of 82)

Wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all of you, our friends & colleagues, who sent flowers, mass cards, messages of sympathy, donations in cash and in kind, spent precious time with us and expressed in many other ways your love, concern and support during our time of greatest sorrow.

Sincerely yours,

Her Children **Erene** ***and*** **Edward,**
George ***and*** **Irene,**
Judy ***and*** **Jose,**
Charles ***and*** **Cristina**
Edward ***and*** **Deanna**

> *"For God so loved the world*
> *that He gave His only begotten Son*
> *that whoever believes in Him*
> *shall not perish but have everlasting life."*
>
> **John 3:16**

JERONE BORJA EVANGELISTA

of San Pablo City

was called home to the Lord on Saturday, May 21, 2005
in Fairview, Ohio at the age of 32.

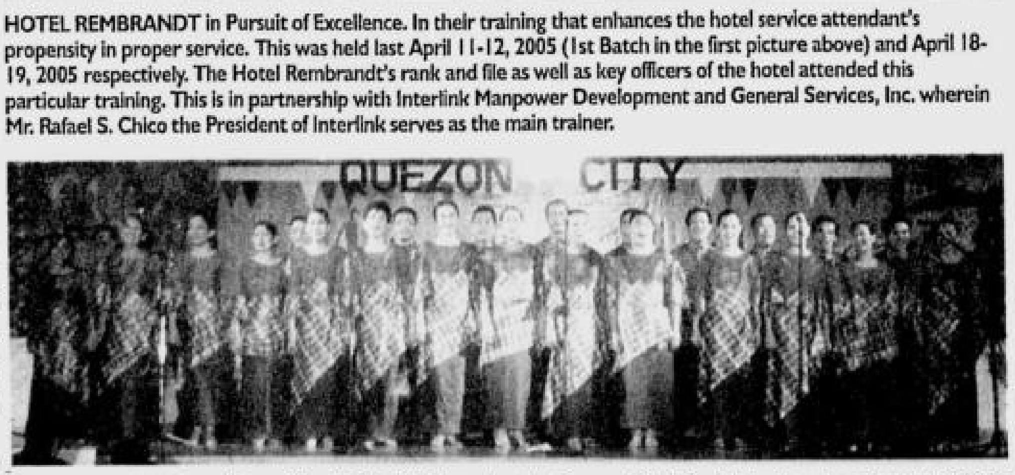
His bereaved parents, **Alfredo Jr.** and **Merlita**; only brother, **Geordie**; **Tia Naty** (†); **"Daddy** and **Mommy"**, **Romel** and **Dolly**; aunts and uncles; cousins and other relatives request prayers for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 10 I. Barleta St., San Pablo City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 31, 2005 at the San Pablo Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the San Pablo Cathedral.

CLASSIFIEDS

HOTEL REMBRANDT in Pursuit of Excellence. In their training that enhances the hotel service attendant's propensity in proper service. This was held last April 11-12, 2005 (1st Batch in the first picture above) and April 18-19, 2005 respectively. The Hotel Rembrandt's rank and file as well as key officers of the hotel attended this particular training. This is in partnership with Interlink Manpower Development and General Services, Inc. wherein Mr. Rafael S. Chico the President of Interlink serves as the main trainer.



QUEZON CITY Cultural Day (May 13, 2005) - featuring the Quezon City's best talents and performers. This is a part of the Metro Manila Best of the Regions 2005 headed by the Department of Tourism, aiming to promote local talents and tourist attractions in conjunction with the department's "Byahe na!" Program. Above is one of the pride of Quezon City—the award winning SSS Chorale Society. The luminaries during the closing ceremonies (May 14, 2005) of the aforementioned program: Was Director Reynato Chua, DOT-NCR; Atty. Victoria V. Loanzon, Special Assistant to the Mayor; Ms. Helen Flores, representing the office of Hon. Julian Coseteng; Mr. Rafael S. Chico, Board Member - Quezon City Tourism Council; Ms. Cherie U. Alcazar and Ms. Marivic Tolentino both from CTAO.

NFA holds bidding for the supply of 200,000 metric rice

AT LEAST 14 rice suppliers were qualified to join but only 11 offered or bidded for the supply of 200,000 metric tons of rice in 5 percent and 15 percent broken grains held today at the Food Development Center Auditorium in Taguig. The offerors, which will source rice mostly from Vietnam, include Peter Cremer, Louis Dreyfus Asia Pte. Ltd., An Giang Import/Export Co., An Giang Tourmex Co., Dong Thap Food-Agriculture Co., An Giang Agricukture Foods Import Export Co., Dong Thap Commerce Import Export Co., Long An Food Co., Thot Not General Commerce Co., Vinh Long Cereal and Food Import Export Co., and Vietnam Southern Food Corp. The price range for the supply of 5 percent rice were between $303.20 to $318.76 per metric ton while the price for the 15 percent broken grains ranges from $289.88 to $303.76 per metric ton. Winning bids will be announced after an evaluation by the Bids and Awards Committee based on Republic Act 9184 or the Procurement Law. The additional rice import supply is being made based from a recommendation by the Inter-Agency Committee on Rice and Cereals chaired by the Department of Agriculture. The other members of the committee are the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), National Economic development Authority (NEDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Farmers Action Council (NFAC), the weather bureau PAG-ASA and the NFA. The members on call are the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and PhilRice.

NFA deploys rolling stores in Metro Manila

THE NATIONAL Food Authority said today that it will intensify the deployment of its rolling stores in Metro Manila especially with the approaching lean months of July to September. NFA administrator Gregorio Y. Tan Jr announced the schedule of the fielding of rolling stores in the various cities and municipalities in Southern Metro Manila. Tan said in the South District, the rolling stores were deployed last May 15 based on the following schedule: Pasay (Maricaban, Barangays #180 - 188; # 177 - Isla 1 & 11, Malibay - every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Mandaluyong (Nueve de Febrero, Addition Hills - Welfareville Cpd, Plainview - Purok Sto. Rosario. Concepcion – every Tuesday and Thursday, Muntinlupa (Bayanan, Putatan, Tunasan, Sucat, Cupang and Alabang - MWF. In Makati, the rolling stores will ply Guadalupe Viejo and Cembo every Tuesday and Thursday. In Taguig, the rolling stores will be in C-5 Litio Maliwanag, C5 stretch and Napindan every Tuesday and Thursday. Meanwhile, in Las Pinas, specifically in Pulang Lupa (Evergreen Homes; CAA Sta. Gudalupe and Marican, Zapote, Basa and Almanza 2 Sitio Pugad Lawin, the rolling stores will serve the area every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. In Talon, 2, 3, 4, every Tuesday and Thursday. Tan cited the schedule in Pateros (Sta. Ana, Zone 1-6, Musni, Pagkakaisa & Niogan) every Tuesday, while in Taguig (Bagong Tanyag-Purok 13, Western Bicutan, PNR Site FTI, Tuktukan and Maharlika every Monday - Wednesday - Fri. In Paranaque (Moonwalk - Tel Aviv, Samapa, Sto Niño, Sitio Libjo, BF Homes and San Antonio Valley), Creek Drive 1&11 every Tuesday and Thursday. The rolling stores will be in the respective areas between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The food agency will regularly release the schedule of deployment of the rolling stores for the various areas in Metro Manila.

Run a cafe downstairs.
Raise a family upstairs.

LAGUNA BELAIR SHOPHOUSES:
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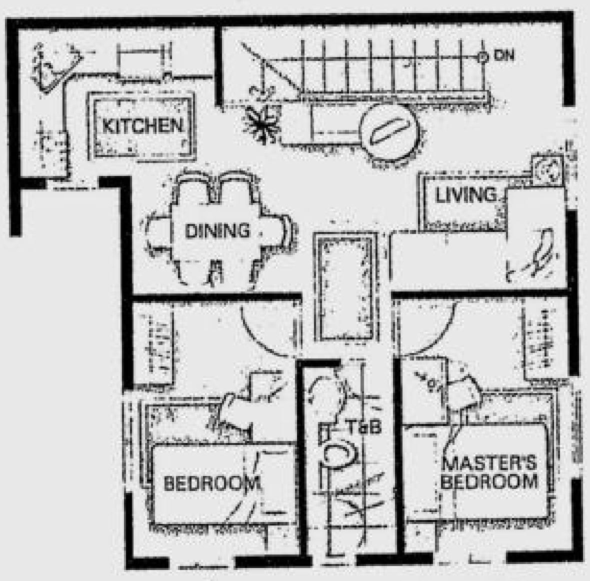
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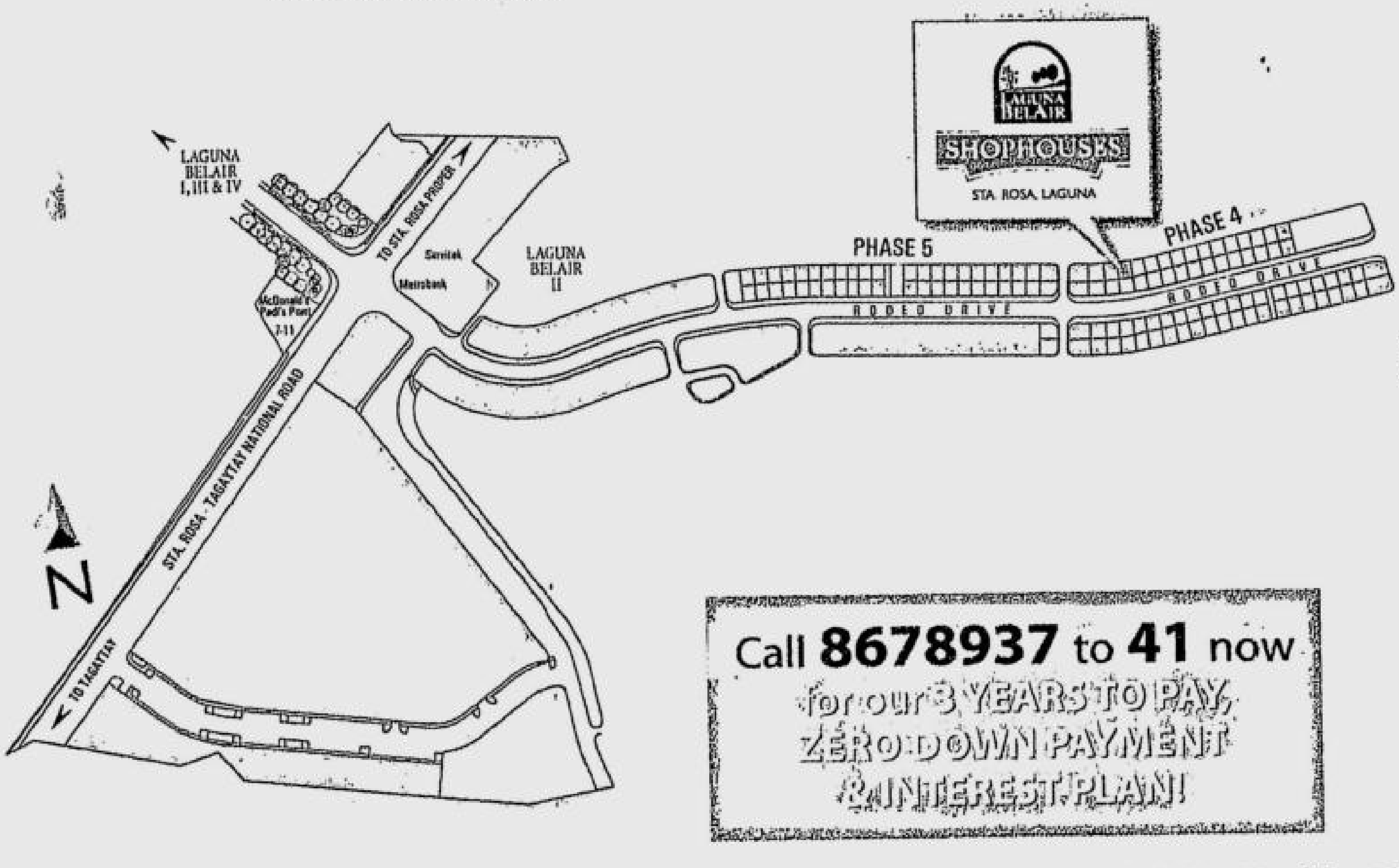
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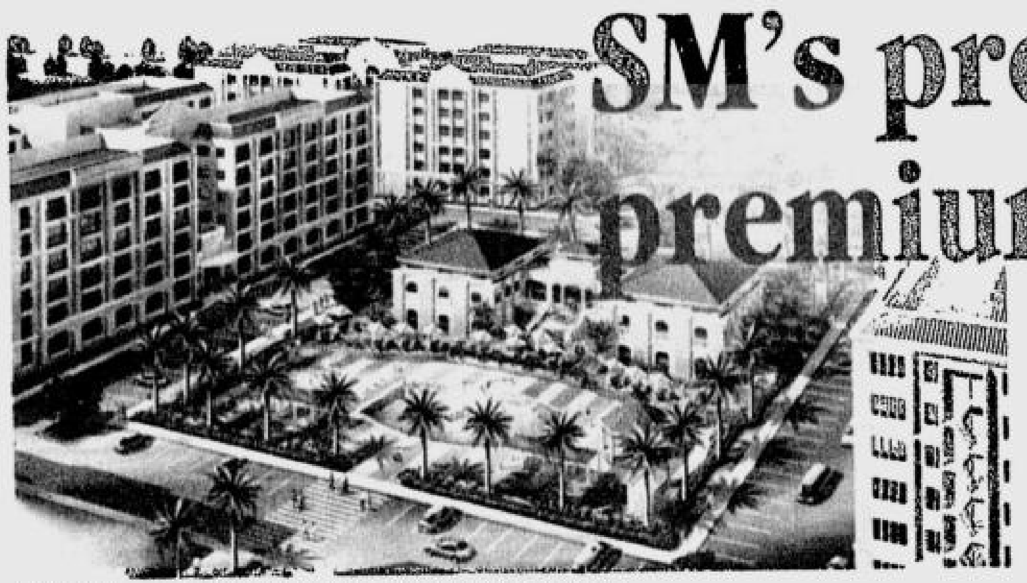
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

PROPERTY

SM's property arm focuses on premium middle-market dev't



ARTIST'S perspective of the 4.7-hectare Chateau Elyseé

Text and photos
by Charles E. Buban

IT'S easy for Rogelio Cabuñag, president of SM Development Corp., to feel great these days, since he's running one of the hottest residential property developers in the country today.

The housing arm of the SM Group is reporting success in its latest endeavors.

The company's maiden project, the 4.7-hectare residential condominium Chateau Elyseé, is enjoying brisk sales: its Concorde cluster (the cluster is composed of four, six-story buildings with 228 total units) is already three-quarters sold out while its Lafayette cluster (384 total units), which will be completed by the end of the year, is now 12 percent sold out.

Even the planned 5-hectare high-rise condominium project near SM North Edsa and the 10.5-hectare condotel in Baguio City are already drawing inquiries from prospective tenants, even though no formal marketing for the

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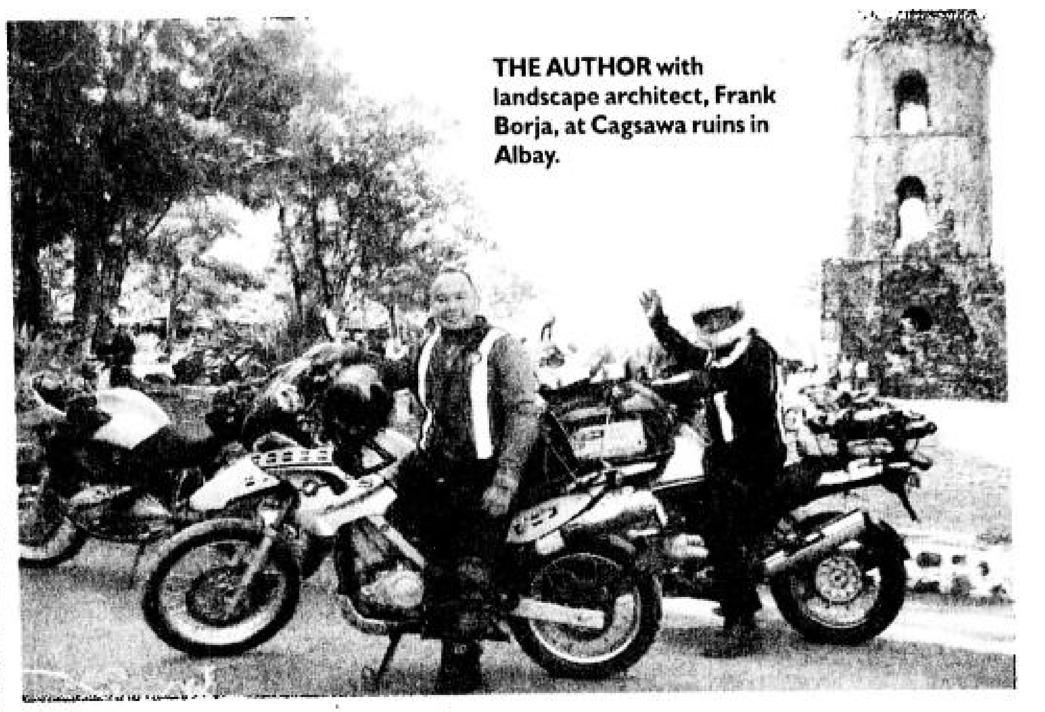


THE AUTHOR with landscape architect, Frank Borja, at Cagsawa ruins in Albay.

A ride through regional architecture

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

RECENTLY, I realized my long-time dream of traveling from Luzon to Mindanao on a motorbike. Motorcycle gangs? Hardcore? Not at all! My recent adventure was in the company of other professionals and business executives, also members of the BMW BOSS riding group who attended the motorcycle convention in General Santos City in Sarangani last weekend.

With the enthusiastic leadership of BOSS president and renowned photographer, Francis Rivera, the five-day cross-country ride went smoothly and safely. The accommodations were excellent; the food was superb; the camaraderie was great. From this activity, the group was able to raise funds to support its regular medical missions for indigent communities.

Valuable insights

Aside from satisfying my passion for the outdoors, the ride also rewarded me with valuable insights to our people's architecture and building practices. Traveling from one region to another allowed me a panoramic view of the countryside and enabled me to compare the similarities and differences of regional architecture.

From the mountain-hugging structures in the Mountain Province, to the glass and concrete buildings of Metro-Manila, to the carved and curlicued old houses in the south, each area has an ambience of its own. However, the variations I noticed are primarily attributable to temperature and general weather conditions and only secondarily to people's habits and traditions.

I also found that the architecture in our countryside has pretty much caught up with that in the urban centers. The sad thing about this is that we are continuously losing our identity in terms of local and regional architecture.

Fast disappearing

This may be due to the influx of easy-to-use materials like GI sheets and ficem boards.

THE RESIDENCE of architect Jay Mendoza and wife Dina in Matina, Davao, where I stayed.

Some indigenous materials that are steadily being passed over for building are the nipa and the sawali. The days of the artistically crafted sawali or bamboo woven walls are fast disappearing.

The nipa, although still used in rural areas, is not processed as carefully as it used to be and, consequently, is no longer as desirable as a building material. If used properly, it can last for over 12 years before it leaks. However, maybe due to our indifference and the *"puede na yan"* attitude, the proper way of working this material has not been passed on to the younger generation of builders for redevelopment. Most are content with what could be done easily and quickly, even if it is not as durable as it can be.

But there is hope. I have heard of a lot of good architectural schools in the provinces, which should, hopefully, include regional architecture and indigenous materials in their curriculums. This will enable us to document, revive and redevelop the architectural uniqueness of each region.

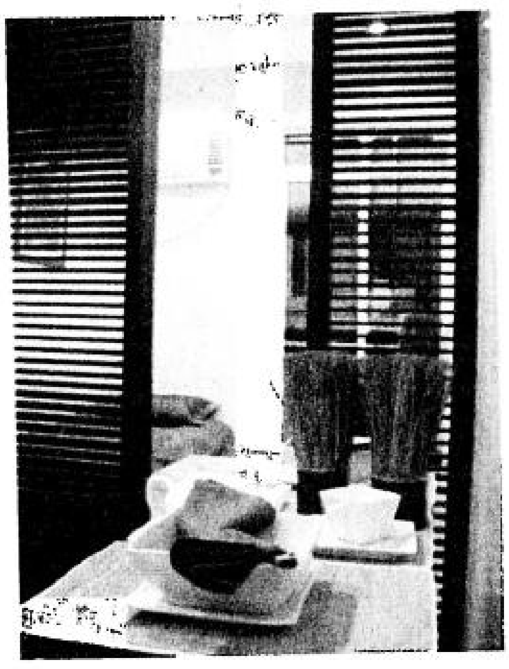
Our craftsmen

There are so many things that we should be proud of. Our craftsmen have been known for their ingenuity, style and skill. They must be given recognition and patronized, otherwise, they will not feel their worth and may not recognize the value of their work, and ultimately, forego their talents for more mundane labor.

Traveling the countryside was an eye-opener for me. It showed me how beautiful the country is and, at the same time, how delicate the balance we are in about keeping what is uniquely Filipino in our surroundings. It means so much to retain and redevelop regional styles.

We don't have to sacrifice modernity when we nurture our crafts and skills. In fact, modern techniques can help us improve the usage of indigenous materials. Regional styles can be showcased in urban structures. Patronizing local artisans will encourage them in their trade. Promoting the best of our province's wares is an option that will surely pay back a hundredfold.

MODEL unit's interiors are tastefully designed by sisters Cynthia and Ivy Almario.



RAFFIA screen serves as dividers to minimize clutter and create ample space inside the unit.

SM's property . . .

From page B1

two projects has been done, yet.

Market appreciation

"The market appreciates what we are doing here at SMDC, which is to establish urban and leisure communities that balance value with affordability," says Cabuñag.

Indeed, the market only needs to see what is happening at Chateau Elyseé to get a glimpse of what to expect in SMDC's upcoming projects.

It was in 2003 when SMDC, through its subsidiary SM Synergy Properties Holdings Corp., launched Chateau Elyseé to address the growing need for residential developments aimed at the middle-income market.

Chateau Elyseé offers studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom (corner or inner) and three-bedroom units with floor area ranging from 18 to 79.7 square meters.

The price range will certainly attract a lot of middle-income buyers since most units are priced below P1.5 million, the ceiling set by the Bureau of Internal Revenue to avail the value-added tax exemption.

Well-planned

"This well-planned low-rise development showcases an innovative approach in community development with emphasis on an eco-friendly environment, wide roads and open spaces, breathtaking landscapes and superb facilities," describes Cabuñag.

He says this development, like the rest of upcoming SMDC residential components, is meant to complement SM malls.

"Many are recognizing the convenience of having a home next to or near a mall so they will be able to live, work and play within their own neighborhood (a shuttle service will be provided to Chateau Elyseé residents since the development is two kilometers away from SM Bicutan in Parañaque City)," reveals Cabuñag.

French Mediterranean

The whole development carries a French Mediterranean touch highlighting classic design elements such as wide windows and doors, high ceilings and soft color tones that create plenty of breathing space.

Inside, the developer incorporated frosted glass sliding doors and a small raffia screen as dividers that minimizes clutter and creates ample space while the furniture and accessories (from tatami mats to sofa beds) are both functional and decorative.

Each condominium unit is assured of privacy, security and exclusivity because of the building complex's state-of-the-art security and communications system, including a 24-hour swipe and code security system and automatic fire alarm and speaker system.

High-speed elevators

Residents are also offered with high-speed elevators (per cluster), centralized garbage disposal and collection system, and parking spaces for both homeowners and their guests.

Scheduled for completion by September, the two-story clubhouse will serve as a venue for social gatherings and will offer indoor facilities like fitness gym and videoke lounge and outdoor facilities including swimming pools for adults and kids, basketball and badminton courts, jogging pathways and pocket parks.

"People will be attracted to live, work and play in this very exceptional setting whose urban design focuses on pleasant, green spaces, easy access to transport, and modern, striking yet people-friendly buildings and spaces," says Cabuñag.

Model units are available for viewing at the project site located at Doña Soledad Avenue, Bicutan in Parañaque City as well as at the SMDC headquarters at the SM Central Business Park in Pasay City.

Use of light and space is key to modern living

THE USE of natural light and space is key to modern urban living.

Natural light gives the homeowner the liberty to save on power. A well-planned space offers the buyer the option to have an interior design fitting to his character and lifestyle.

This is the design philosophy behind the development of Cedar Home, the anchor home design of Verdant Heights, a residential project within the Multinational Village in Parañaque City.

Top-of-the line offering

Cedar Home is a stylish single-detached residential unit sitting on a garden-like community where fresh breeze freely flows.

It is the top-of-the-line offering of Verdant Heights targeting the upper-middle-income buyers with a tag price of P4.8 million.

Cedar Home makes use of space and light to accommodate any interior design that suits the taste of the residents.

Architectural masterpiece

An architectural masterpiece built for urban people who long for freedom to enjoy life's abundance with their loved ones, Cedar Home, rises in the grandeur of 168-square-meter lot forming part of a beautifully landscaped park spreading across the 3.38-hectare serene and trendy community.

It has a two-car garage. Its clear-glass windows brighten up the whole house with a total floor area of 172 sq m.

The living room was designed in such a way that the tiles, wall and ceiling allow sunlight to dictate an upbeat mood.

A sliding door with clear glass in the spacious dining area opens to a landscaped garden. The kitchen was designed to turn cooking into a pleasurable family activity.

Also at the ground floor are the spacious maid's quarters, storage room and a functional service area. The second floor has three bedrooms, including a master bedroom, with wood vinyl flanks floor. Three bathrooms are tactically placed to bring convenience to the residents.

138 stylish houses

Apart from Cedar Home, Verdant Heights also offers 138 stylish but highly functional houses that cater to a mix of middle- and high-end markets.

These include single-detached Cypress model, with a 144-sq-m lot and 150-sq-m floor area; single-attached Mulberry, with 120-sq-m lot and 111-sq-m floor area; Gardenia townhouse, with 70-sq-m lot and 82-sq-m floor area; and Sena townhouse, with 56-sq-m lot and 66-sq-m floor area. Prices range from P2.1 million to P5 million.

Financing packages

The International Exchange Bank (iBank), the partner bank of Verdant Heights, provides financing packages to potential buyers and is willing to finance upfront 85 percent of the selling price at reasonable rates spread in 20 years, with an interest of as low as 11.5 percent in the first year and 16 percent for five years.

Rates after the five-year period will be based on the prevailing market rates that can be worked out with the bank.

With the resurgence of the property sector on the back of the US$8.5 billion remitted by Filipinos from other countries in 2004, Verdant Heights responds to the growing need for stylish houses among upper-middle and high-income groups of Philippine society.

The need for high-end residential units will be more felt this year, with the expected inflow of as much as US$10 billion in remittances from abroad and the continuous development of premium grade office space to host multinational call centers and backroom offices.

Industry growth

Property developers are actually expecting an industry growth of more than 7 percent in 2005, despite the rising cost of construction materials, as the economy is expected to remain buoyant in the medium-term.

Prices of construction materials were up by 11.3 percent as of March, pushed by China's insatiable demand for steel and cement and partly because of a 10-percent acceleration in local construction activities in the first three quarters of 2004.

The growth of the industry was actually felt throughout 2004. In the fourth quarter, the total value of construction in the country surged by 16 percent to P23.3 billion (US$427.5 million) from only P20.1 billion a year ago.

Value of construction

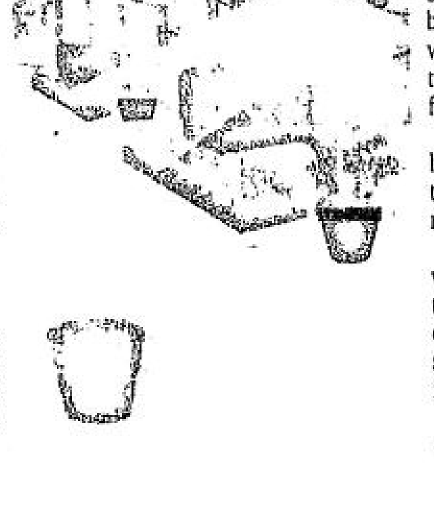
In particular, the value of construction for residential buildings went up by 12.3 percent to P11.9 billion in the fourth quarter from P10.6 billion a year earlier while the value of construction for non-residential buildings increased by 30.3 percent to P9.2 billion from P7.0 billion.

Approved for construction in the last quarter of 2004 were 18,226 residential units, 1,578 commercial establishments and 354 industrial buildings. Verdant Heights units were among the high-end residential units constructed and approved for construction last year.

Verdant Heights boasts of a 24-hour security service, guarded entrance gate, a clubhouse, a swimming pool and landscaped parks.

It was developed by One Asia Development Corp., a niche player in the upper-middle income to high-end residential projects, in partnership with Atlanta Land Corp. and iBank.

For more information, please call 687-3706 or 687-3704.



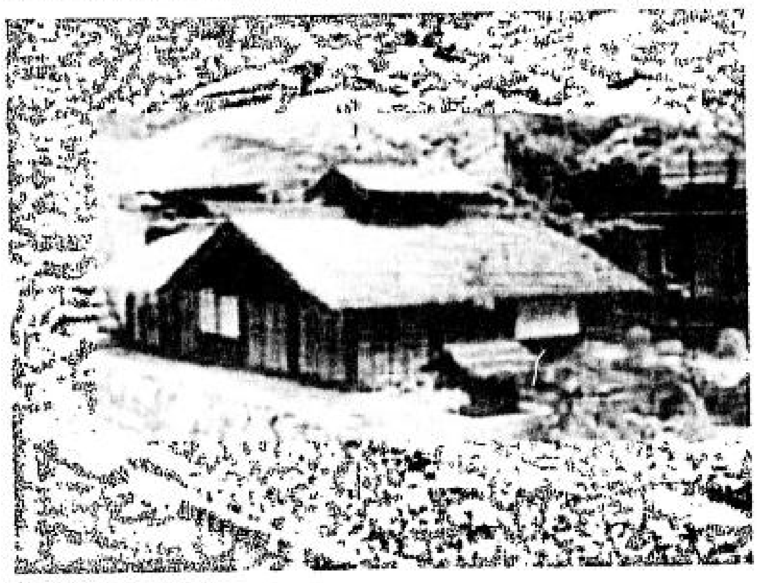
World's oldest hotel

AMAZING STRUCTURES

IT NEVER fails to fascinate some of us to be standing inside a centuries–old house or church. We imagine how much the place has seen and been through, the people who walked its halls, the activities which took place in it. Call it overreacting, but we even experience goosebumps feeling that strange but wonderful sense of oldness.

How about being in an establishment that is more than a thousand years old?

The Guinness World Records lists the Hoshi Ryokan in the village of Awazu, Japan, as the world's oldest hotel. Built near a hot spring said to have miraculous healing properties, the Hoshi Ryokan has been serving locals and foreigners alike for the past 1,288 years dating back to 717 AD.



HOSHI Ryokan, the world's oldest hotel

Underground hot spring

According to its history, the guardian deity of Mount Hakusan, an isolated sacred mountain, appeared in a dream to Taicho Daishi, a great Buddhist monk and teacher, while the latter was on the mountain to meditate. The spirit revealed to Taicho that an underground hot spring with extraordinary, healing abilities lies near the foot of Mount Hakusan.

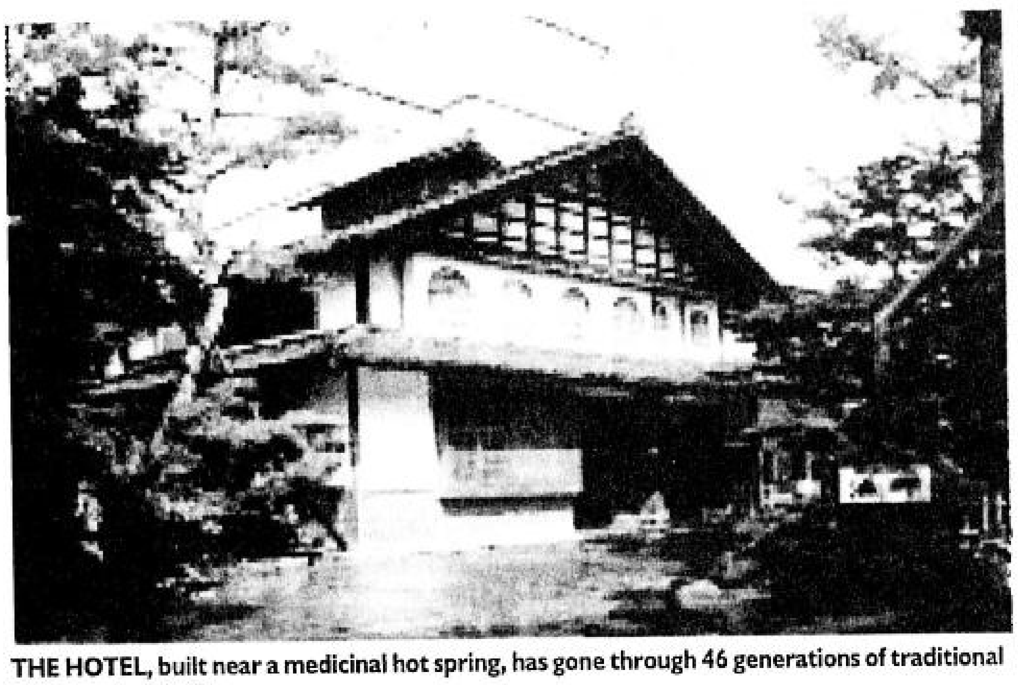
Taicho was to make the villagers aware of this gift and following the deity's instructions, he went down the mountain to the village where he, with the help of the villagers, unearthed the hidden spring. Having uncovered the hot spring, the monk shared the medicinal powers of the hot spring with the villagers and instructed his follower, Garyo Hoshi to put up an inn on the site.

Inn

Today, the Hoshi Ryokan has 100 bedrooms and can accommodate up to 450 guests. Guests, upon arrival, are dressed up in a "yukata," the traditional Japanese cotton kimono, and treated to a customary tea ceremony. Meals consist of fresh and natural produce. The seafood, in particular, is caught from a nearby ocean.

Truly, the Hoshi Ryokan is one establishment which has been effectively passed on from generation to generation to generation to generation to generation to generation—46 generations, actually.

Dianne M. Villafuerte



THE HOTEL, built near a medicinal hot spring, has gone through 46 generations of traditional Japanese hospitality.

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Boehringer-Ingelheim supports Gawad Kalinga

BOEHRINGER-INGELHEIM Philippines Inc. employees recently turned over the company's donation to the Gawad Kalinga (GK) for the construction of eight row houses for poor families at the Baseco Gawad Kalinga (GK) compound in Tondo, Manila.

In the next few weeks until the houses are completed, Boehringer-Ingelheim's employees will spend their weekends at the compound to help in the housing project. The company, thus, joined more than 15 corporate and individual partners in building houses in the Baseco compound which was ravaged by fire, leaving homeless hundreds of poor families.

The site was turned over last year to Gawad Kalinga which since then have awarded 680 houses to qualified families who contributed 200 working days in the construction of the houses. GK aims to build 2,500 homes at the site. Another 1,000 homes are being built in the area by Habitat for Humanity.

Corporate social responsibility

"For Boehringer Ingelheim Philippines, Gawad Kalinga goes beyond conventional corporate social responsibility," said BIP managing director Stefan Kilian. "It is involvement in participative development and a response to the call for 'heroes.' It is a concrete effort toward rebuilding the nation through empowerment of its people by helping improve the quality of their lives. Indeed, it is a heroic act of nurturing the heroes in others."

Said Kilian: "We are very selective of where our support goes to. We want to focus on just a couple of really worthwhile endeavors. For instance, we have been also involved in the Philippine General Hospital School Program for pediatric patients. This is not a one-time thing for us. We are interested in a long-term partnership."

"Eventually, I hope that when they see what we are doing here, more people from Boehringer-Ingelheim not just in this country, but also elsewhere will realize that this is really worth their support. And maybe, they too will help. So, really, this is just the beginning," he added.

Multisectoral partnership

Gawad Kalinga, an initiative of Couples for Christ, started five years ago. It has now grown into a multisectoral partnership driven by a vision of the Philippines with no more slums. Today, in various regions of the country, villages with multicolored GK homes have been built for and with the poorest of the poor Filipino families. GK adapted the concept of "bayanihan" or becoming a hero to each other.

Boehringer Ingelheim Philippines, operating for more than 40 years in the country, has become one of the leading pharmaceutical companies here. The Boehringer Ingelheim group is one of the world's 20 leading pharmaceutical companies. Based in Ingelheim, Germany, it operates globally with 144 affiliates in 45 countries and some 36,000 employees. Founded in 1885, the company has been committed to researching, developing, manufacturing and marketing novel products of high therapeutic value for human and veterinary medicine.

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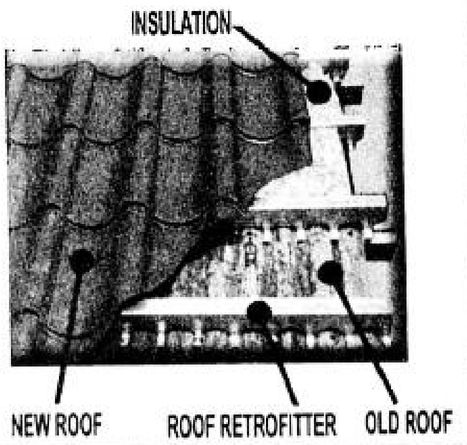

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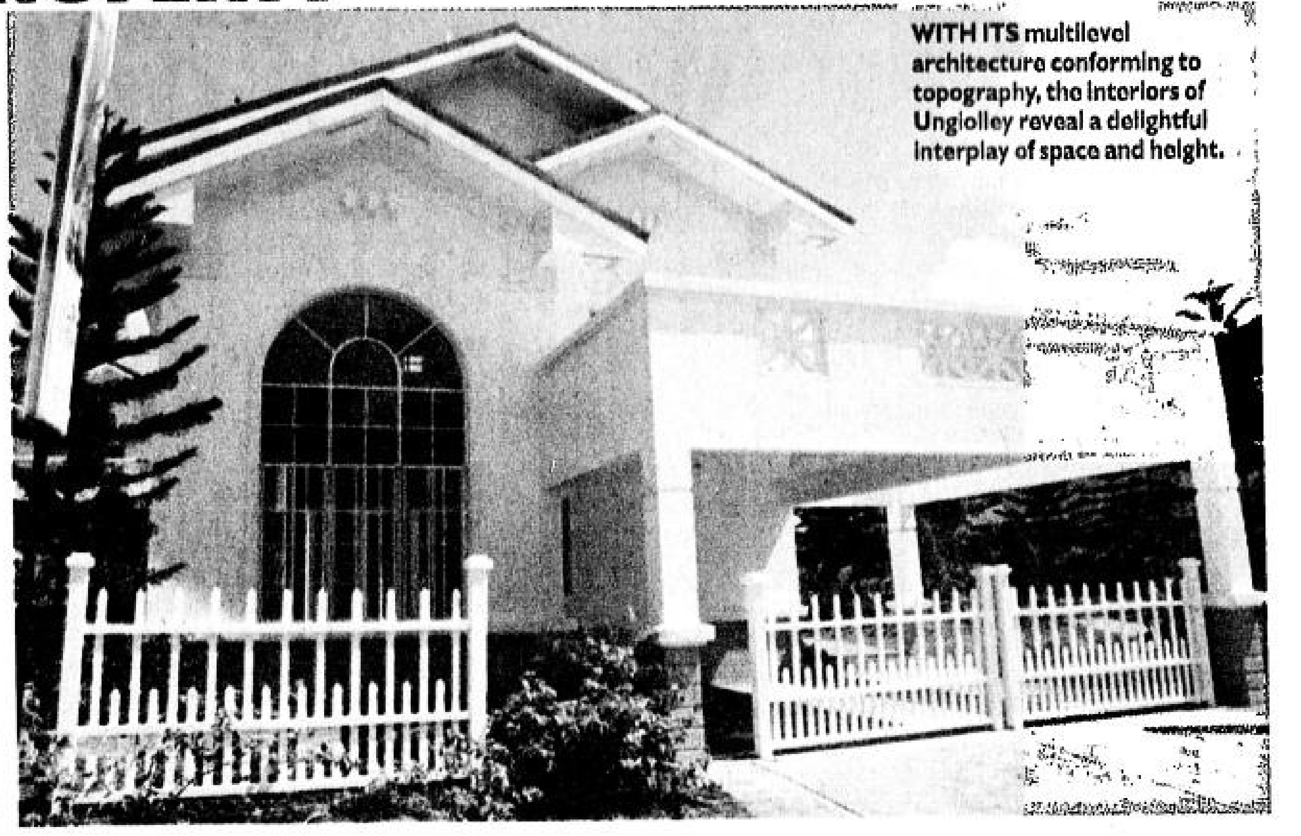


WITH ITS multilevel architecture conforming to topography, the interiors of Ungiolley reveal a delightful interplay of space and height.

YOUNG, urban achievers are driven by purposeful careers and the goal of building the future of their own families. With these aspirations in mind, urbanites desire a comfortable lifestyle amid an ideal environment in which to raise children.

360° Living, a division of real estate maverick Brittany Corp., presents a themed residential community masterplanned to complement life's priorities with Trails II, the newest phase of the American ranch-inspired La Marea in San Pedro, Laguna.

Patterned after the success of Trails of La Marea, Trails II is premised on the 360° Living's insight that raising children defines residents' priorities, needs and lifestyle. Thus, all planning by 360° Living is anchored around the family, with architecture and use of space creating nontraditional ambiance and configuration.

4 model homes

Located within the 42-hectare residential estate of La Marea, Trails II offers four model homes to choose from, each with distinct inspiration from American ranch-style manors while incorporating nature's splendor:

- **Ungiolley.** Highlighted by a cathedral-type window, the architecture conforms to the topography while interiors of the Ungiolley reveal a delightful interplay of space and height, maximizing roominess. It has a floor area of 160 square meters on 180-sq-m lot area priced at P5.5 million.
- **Alexandra.** Ingenious architectural design maximizes the already bigger space of Alexandra, creating the ideal home to suit growing families. It has a floor area of 168 sq m on 180-sq-m lot area with two bedrooms, a den with the option of converting it to an extra bedroom, and two toilets and baths. The Alexandra model is priced at P4.9 million.
- **Vittoria.** The largest of the four models, Vittoria offers more room to complement your lifestyle. Living areas are carefully designed to accommodate family activities and guests. It has a lanai, two bedrooms each with its own toilet and bath, and a den which can be converted to another bedroom with its own toilet and bath. The Vittoria model has a floor area of 188 sq m on 210-sq-m lot area priced at P6.2 million.

Each of the first three models boast of a family room and balcony, features that allow activities to enrich relationships. A maid's room and utility area are also provided. The newest model for Trails II is Tiara Piccolo, a charming home with a floor area of 120 sq m and 70-sq-m lot area with price ranging from P2.7 to P3 million.

5-point philosophy

The philosophy of 360° Living, given new expression at Trails II, has five points:

1. **Intelligent use of space.** Intelligent space planning shows how "more can be done with less," giving each home a feeling of being bigger than its actual floor area.
2. **Shelter around activity.** Each area of a home is designed with family activities in mind, promoting harmonious interaction.
3. **Multifunctionality.** Rooms are designed for more than one function. The family room, for example, can serve as a guest area, or for reading, music or watching TV.
4. **Space of one's own.** Homes have individual spaces for every family member, be it a quiet corner for mom, a mini work space for dad, or a hideaway for a child.
5. **Interior views.** Thoughtfully located windows look out onto delightful vistas, with natural light emphasizing the sense of space within.

Innovations

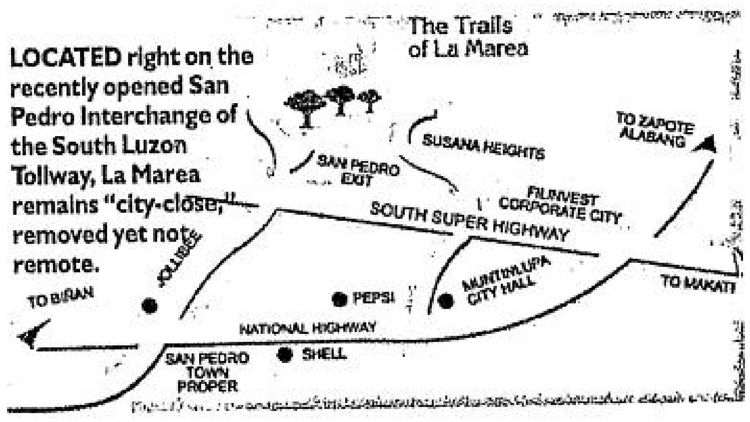
Improving the quality of life for Trails residents are innovations that put "creative living" within reach. These innovations include new designs for picket fences, stone cladding to enhance the look and value of homes, garbage bins, termite control, and mail boxes.

To complete the ideal environment at Trails of La Marea are unique amenities and facilities that will soon be available for its residents. One of these is the Fern Garden that will be accessible via a hanging footbridge. Other future attractions are the butterfly sanctuary, mist and a pond that will enable neighbors to share an unending discovery of nature and fellowship with each other. A clubhouse and swimming pool will leave no reason to go out of the community for leisure.

Strategically located right on recently opened San Pedro Interchange of the South Luzon Tollway, La Marea is "city-close," removed yet not remote. La Marea is only a 10-minute drive from the bustling corporate and commercial areas of Alabang and 8 minutes away from the booming industrial town and leisure destinations in Sta. Rosa. Previews may be arranged by calling 360° Living at 842-1251 or 842-0436.

VITTORIA, the largest model at Trails II, boasts of thoughtfully designed living areas to complement the lifestyle of growing families.

THE NEWEST model for Trails II, Tiara Piccolo evokes warm American country-style design.



LOCATED right on the recently opened San Pedro Interchange of the South Luzon Tollway, La Marea remains "city-close," removed yet not remote.

Philbex 2005: A world-class construction expo in the South

WORLDBEX Services International invites trade professionals to the Philippine Building and Construction Exposition (Philbex 2005) with more than 100 local and foreign industry-related exhibitors.

Slated on May 26-29 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., this free admission-event will be held at the Waterfront Hotel and Casino, Lahug.

Philbex, a regional swing of Worldbex, features the topnotch products, services and technology in the construction and building arena.

For enterprising Filipinos

With the theme "Exploring Advancement in Global Construction Network," WSI aspires to act as platform for enterprising Filipinos as they take on the international arena. And with Cebu's established track record of progress and growth, it has become a strategic venue for establishing new markets and generating more sales.

Expected participants include property developers, interior designers, architects, engineers, contractors, trade professionals, product designers, distributors, importers/exporters, construction developers, consultants, project managers, purchasing officers, government representatives and direct corporate users.

"This event takes an international slant this year with the participation of the United States, Finland, Netherlands, China and Malaysia," said Joseph Ang, chairman of Worldbex Services International, the event organizer.

Free seminars

World-renowned architects like Francisco Mañosa, Gilbert Yu and Felino Jun Palafox Jr., as well as noted interior designer Leo Almeria are expected to draw crowds as they hold free seminars.

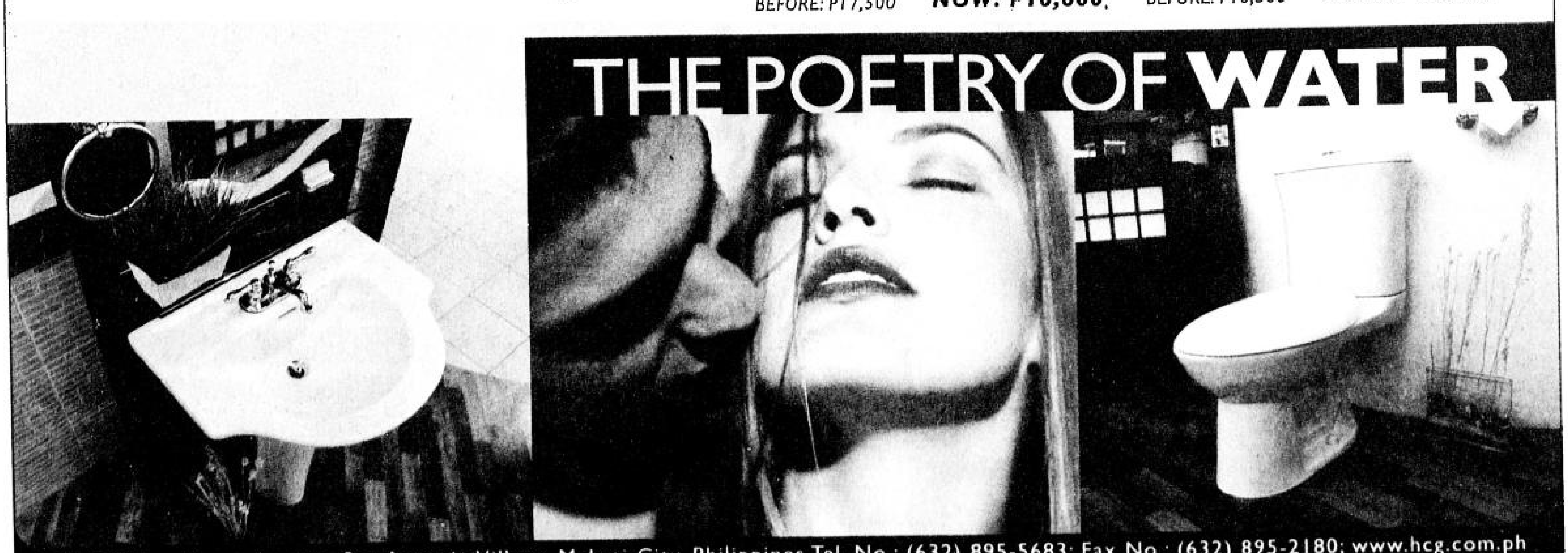
"We wanted Visayas and Mindanao to take part in the action so it's literally bringing the best of Worldbex to the south," added Ang.

On its 3rd run, Philbex is supported by the Philippine Institute of Architects, Philippine Institute of Interior Designers and United Architects of the Philippines chapters of Bacolod, Bohol, Capiz, Davao, Dipolog, Hamili, Iligan, Iloilo, Lapu-lapu, Marikudo, Sugbu and Zamboanga.

Worldbex

WSI recently staged the triumphant 10th anniversary of Philippine World Building and Construction Exposition or Worldbex with over 800 exhibitors during the five-day run at the World Trade Center last March. With the same confidence and conviction, the Philbex is another milestone in the works.

This year's event is likely to top last year's record of over 10,000 visitors. The event comes with numerous prizes for participants including free round-trip tickets to Hong Kong.



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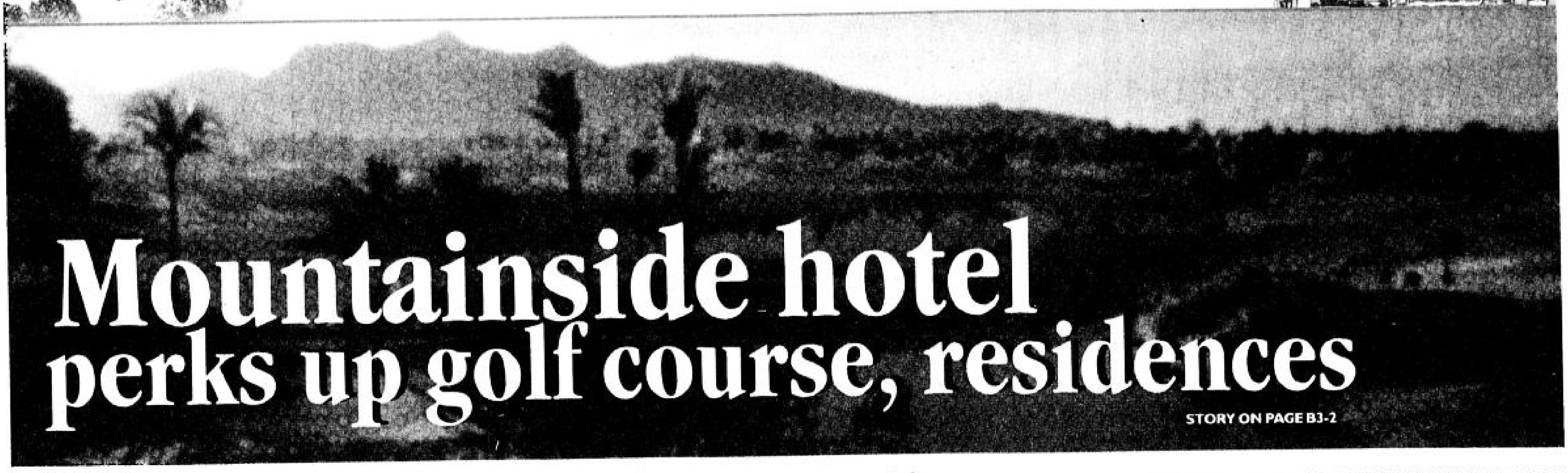
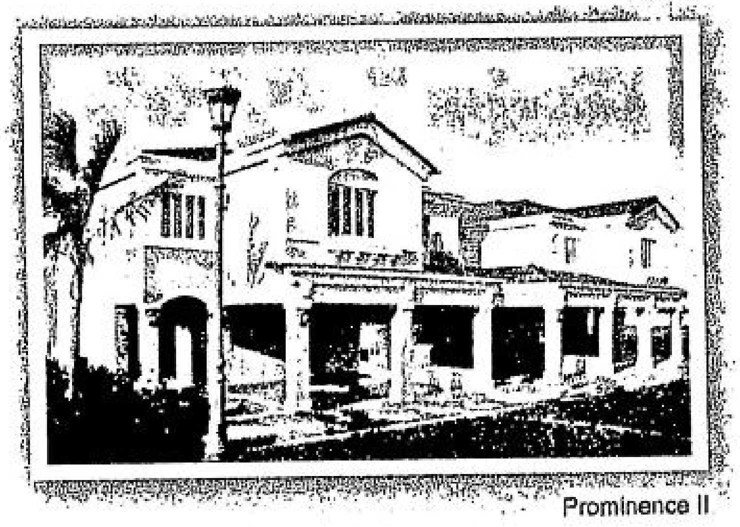
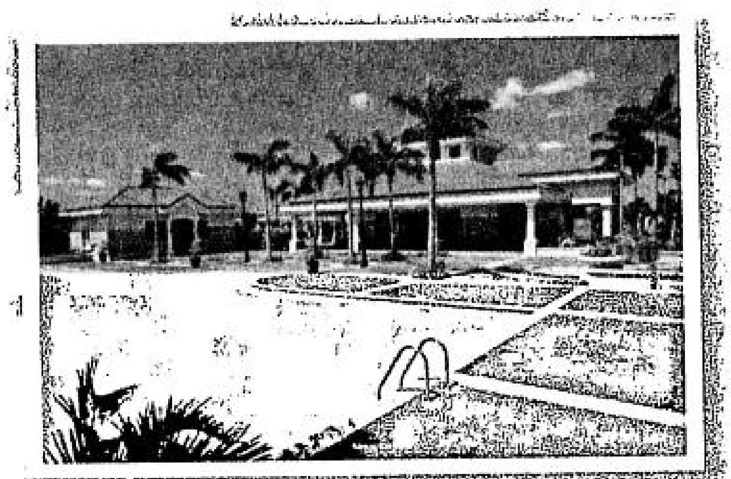


Mountainside hotel perks up golf course, residences

STORY ON PAGE B3-2

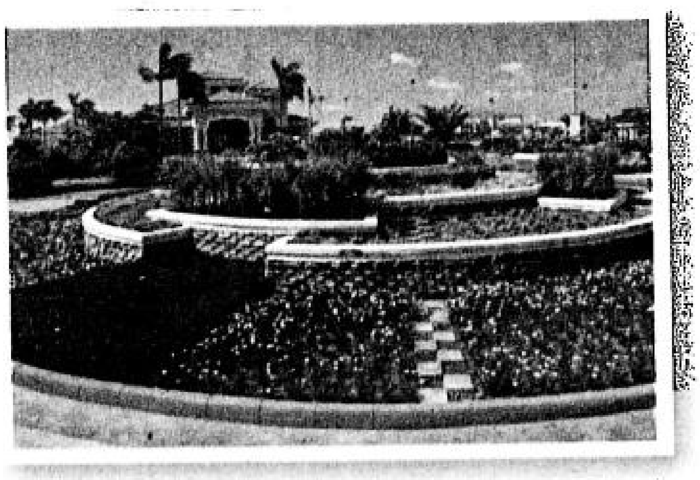


Prominence II



Main Clubhouse

One of seven children's playgrounds



Rotunda

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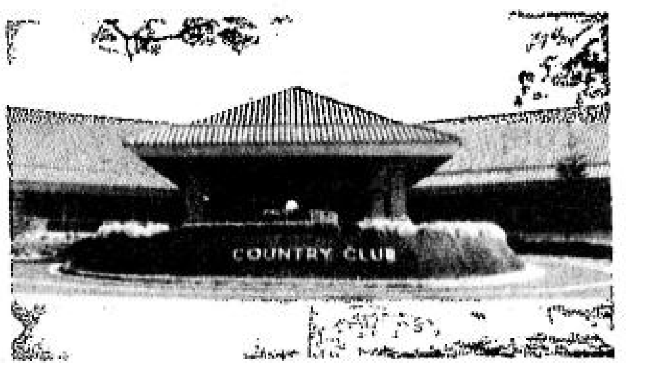
FILINVEST
INVEST ON SOLID GROUND

Mountainside hotel perks up golf course, residences



By Tessa R. Salazar

AERIAL shot of the Malarayat Golf and Country Club (above) and imposing front view of the hotel (top, right)

SEEING the beauty and grandeur of nature, we human beings can only gaze in wonder and concede that Someone up there has taken the title of the "best architect in the universe." But that doesn't mean we can't "improve" on what He has already designed for us.

A thought like this ran through the minds of environmental planners, architects and the developer of the over 200-hectare project involving the 27-hole championship all-weather golf course Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club, its residential estates, inns, suites and its newly constructed hotel.

Though this Lipa City, Batangas location does not conjure as dramatic a vista as, say Tagaytay, because of its slightly lower elevation at 1,200 feet above sea level, the leisure, recreational and residential complex of Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club will soon boast of its own 32-room de luxe hotel, complete with a fine-dining restaurant serving gourmet meals and wines.

Site developer Active Group Inc. is working on giving a four- to five-star quality on the de luxe hotel to make golfing here a good family getaway, while at the same time scaling down rates.

Its ballroom can seat 300 guests, while its veranda can accommodate an additional 150. There are four more smaller function rooms. Its Café Liberica will offer intimate dining and famous *kapeng barako* from Batangas plantations.

Strongest point

The Mt. Malarayat development started with an in-depth study of the area, which used to be a coconut plantation and poultry. The Active Group went as far as taking aerial photographs and land surveys covering every square meter to understand the total configuration of the land.

The husband and wife team of architects Antonio A. Turalba Sr. and Cristina Valera Turalba—who were also environmental and urban planners—surveyed the area and decided that the mountain would have to be the strongest point of the golf and country club.

Thorough topographical studies then revealed the slope, the configuration, the strengths and weaknesses of the land. The surrounding areas were studied as well.

The development then worked around the existing vegetation that thrived in the area. Existing mango plantations were preserved.

The deeper portions of the area were identified and transformed into lakes. These lakes would be functional holding ponds of the golf course.

The artificial lakes would be sustained by rains running off the course and the residential estates. The water from the lake would, in turn, serve the sprinkler systems that would water the golf lawns.

Environment sensitive

The Turalbas, now joined by their children (also architects and real estate development experts) didn't limit their work on the physical development of the site alone, but likewise considered the four barangays surrounding the golf club. They then used, to a large extent, labor available from these areas. They trained the locals specialized skills in golf course maintenance and caddying.

The planners then identified parts of the site that had higher elevations, and these were designated as residential estates. Residents would then have a great view of the golf course.

The country club's sports center offers indoor sports such as basketball, billiards, bowling, darts, table tennis, badminton and squash. A swimming pool complex, a fishing lake, an equestrian center and a children's area are also available.

The Inns at Mount Malarayat consists of 11 standard rooms, two premier rooms and four family rooms. The Suites is a building consisting of luxury residences located across the club's facilities. It has 18 one-bedroom suites and 27 studio units. Each unit has a balcony.

The residential estates are composed of three phases. Phase 1 lots range from 800 to 5,000 square meters. Phase 2 lots range from 300 to 795 sq m and Phase 3 lot cuts range from 350 to 800 sq m.

The developers made sure that designing the entire complex would make the guests comfortable with strolling from one facility to another.

The A team

The sprawling golf course, designed by the J. Michael Poellet Design Group, has had its share of recognition, including that for Mount Makulot Par 5 Hole No. 7 (tagged one of the "Top 500 Best Holes in the World" and was once cited as "the most photogenic course" in the country).

Planner and architect Turalba and Associate collaborated with landscape architects I.P. Santos and Associates of Pasig, and Pesons, Dimanlig, Aleta and Alcazaren of Chen Leon Singapore for this project.

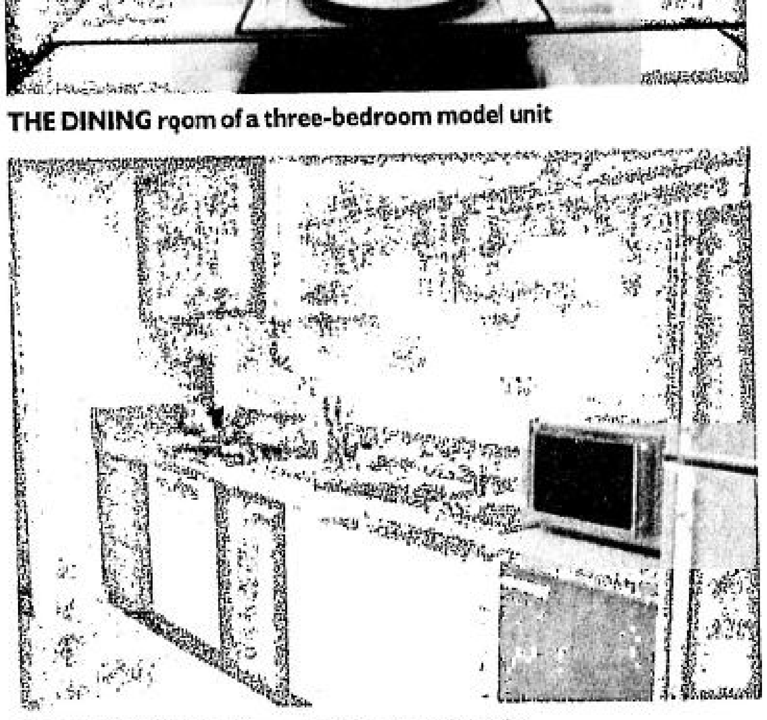
For the equestrian center design, Denise Yabut Cojuangco of Oberlin Kophfholz, Switzerland was tapped. The design structure was done by Silverio C. Calma and Associates.

The Active Group Inc. was the developer.

Krueger Power Systems Engineering did the electrical systems, while LR Punzalan and Associates took charge of the mechanical systems. Living Waters DPD Inc. of California, USA, was in charge of water features.

Mactan Tower showroom now open at Bay Garden

THE DINING room of a three-bedroom model unit


THE KITCHEN of a three-bedroom model unit

REAL estate giant, Federal Land Inc. (FedLand), the property arm of the Metrobank group, unveiled on a sultry, summer evening, the designer showrooms for the Mactan Tower, the latest California resort-inspired, residential condominium at Bay Garden.

FedLand president Alfred Ty, who delivered the opening remarks during the evening, welcomed friends, business partners and valued clients and led them through Mactan Tower's stylish and laidback model units spruced up by some of the country's top designers.

The Mactan Tower Designer Showroom, located at Roxas Boulevard corner Edsa Extension, showcases the three-bedroom unit designed by Recio + Casas Architects; the two-bedroom unit handled by W.V. Coscolluela & Associates; and the one-bedroom unit crafted by Home & Lifestyle Custom Furniture.

The low-density tower will have 180 units that have been designed to cater to the individual tastes of property buyers.

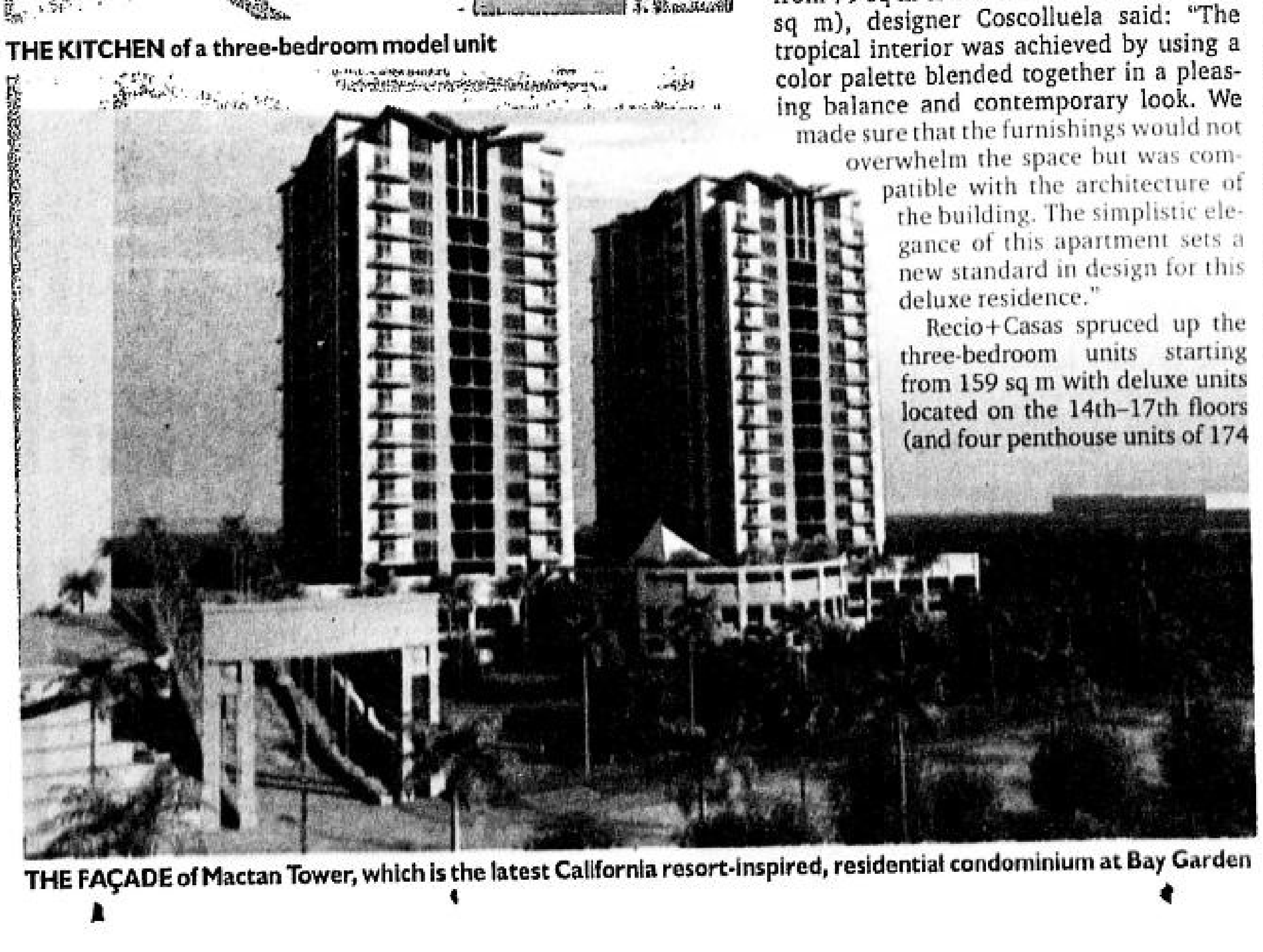
THE LIVING room of a one-bedroom model unit

New balances

"Modern Zen" was how Dulce Samson of Home & Lifestyle Furniture summed up the design for the one-bedroom units from the basic 59 square meters to the executive 79 sq m with choices of North, East, South or West view. "The therapy of natural elements and sophistication of materials combined to achieve new balances for refreshing body, mind and home. A quiet and rejuvenating Asian atmosphere that enhances sense of nature, it reflects the highest ideals of simplicity and balance," Samson said.

On the two-bedroom units (ranging from 79 sq m to the executive model at 99 sq m), designer Coscolluela said: "The tropical interior was achieved by using a color palette blended together in a pleasing balance and contemporary look. We made sure that the furnishings would not overwhelm the space but was compatible with the architecture of the building. The simplistic elegance of this apartment sets a new standard in design for this deluxe residence."

Recio+Casas spruced up the three-bedroom units starting from 159 sq m with deluxe units located on the 14th–17th floors (and four penthouse units of 174 sq m each at the top floor) to reflect the Bay Garden's new concept—urban condo living in an island resort ambiance.


THE FAÇADE of Mactan Tower, which is the latest California resort-inspired, residential condominium at Bay Garden

Practical approach

"All aspects of design defined with contemporary lines. Its practical approach to interior architectural detail shows careful space planning, applying minimum effort to produce maximum results," Recio+Casas said. "High ceilings combined with warm ledge lighting lend the feeling of spaciousness. Wide glass sliding doors and windows leading out to the balcony allow for natural lighting to brighten any room. Teak wood parquet flooring in natural finish combined with simple light painted walls further enhances the warmth and sophistication in all rooms."

To highlight the tropical-inspired feel of Mactan Tower, all units will have a lanai overlooking a selection of panoramic views from their floor-to-ceiling window. From the north, one can enjoy the night lights of the CCP complex, Manila Yacht Club and the Roxas Boulevard strip; from the east, residents can capture the morning sunrise and a spectacular view of Makati's Business district; from the south, buyers can view the wide open spaces of Metropolitan Park, the airport and Coastal Highway. But the west side offers the most priceless view of all, the postcard perfect Manila Bay which is Bay Garden's highest selling point that is unmatched by any other property development in the metropolis today.

Best features of 3 towers

Mactan Tower, which puts together the best features of the first three towers, boasts of new amenities designed to complement the existing facilities at the Bay Gardens and enhance property values.

The new facilities include a free-form 15-meter lapping pool and children's wading pool, poolside cabanas, space for a recreation/game room, playground and sandbox, outdoor barbecue, amphitheater with a cone-shaped tension shade, a steam room and spa, a multipurpose function room with al fresco setup and picnic grounds that double as a mini putting green.

Mactan Tower will have a high-ceiling entrance drop-off featuring an open-air lobby with fresh tropical gardens in the middle of the podium that have become a hallmark of FedLand's vertical projects. Mactan Tower, scheduled for turnover in 2007, is the fourth condominium tower to rise in the Bay Garden prime residential cluster in three years.

Brisk sales

Ty said the bullish pace of development in the bay area was prompted by the brisk sales of the first three towers, with the latest, Anchor Bay Tower, already 90 percent sold.

While the overall real estate market has been in a slump over the last few years, Ty said FedLand has been able to buck the trend by offering buyers with unique projects (bay area ambiance, wide open space and proximity to urban centers) and value for money (lush gardens and parks and sport recreation facilities).

"Our condo buyers don't feel cooped up because our units are built to make them feel part of a much broader and relaxed environment all within a few minutes drive from their place of work," Ty said.

Bay Garden is the jewel of the 40-hectare Metropolitan Park, a fast-rising bayside community which includes Toyota Manila Bay, Blue Wave (a leisure and dining strip mall), Le Pavillon, Manila Doctor's College and a Metrobank branch on Macapagal Boulevard.

Brittany Bay livens up The Wharf

SOMEWHERE in the south, just 15 minutes away from the Makati business district and 20 minutes from the Ortigas skyline lies an oasis where urbanites can kick back and relish life. The Wharf, part of the exemplary set of themed and masterplanned communities and prime developments maverick property developer Brittany Bay Corp., convenes friends and family in its plush complex which already houses coffee haven Figaro, Grappa's Ristorante and Dencio's Bar and Grill.

From dining and dancing to chilling out and enjoying the cool breeze, The Wharf at Brittany Bay has become one of the fastest growing hotspots south of the metro. Now, there is a new addition to this happening hangout overlooking Laguna Bay, a marvelous learning facility that will bring the arts to bay area and beyond.

Multifaceted center

The Bay Center for Music & Arts is a multifaceted center for arts education that nurtures artistic passion and potential. It offers music, art and dance classes for kids and adults under the tutelage of dance, art and music professionals.

RESIDENTS stretch out at the BCMA dance studio.

The BCMA was recently inaugurated by guest of honor Sen. Manny Villar and daughter Camille, with the Posadas family, and proud homeowners of La Posada and other neighboring residents also graced the occasion. They got to check out BCMA's fabulous amenities like a spacious dance studio, dressing rooms and special areas to accommodate individual music and art tutorials.

Beautiful music

At BCMA, you can learn to make beautiful music with much fun and ease. Learn how to play classics and pop hits on the piano with multiawarded pianist and Rologar scholar Rica Manas-de los Angeles. Warm up your vocal chords and learn to hit the high notes with Sweet Plantado-Tiongson of premier singing group The Company. Unleash your rock star potential by studying guitar basics with classically trained guitarist Victor Jan Alba. Aside from piano, voice and guitar, BCMA will soon be offering violin lessons.

Got two left feet? BCMA has just the thing to get you moving. Bend and tiptoe your way to graceful motion with ballet lessons under seasoned dancer Angela R. Lawenko. Spin, hop, kick and groove in high-impact jazz sessions with Gisele Guarin. You can even learn the hottest dance moves by enrolling in the street dancing course with breakdance champ Kyxz Mendiola.

For those who want to express their creativity on paper, BCMA also offer basic drawing and pastel painting under Herman Lazo.

So get your creative juices flowing and enroll now at the Bay Center for Music and the Arts. For the schedule of classes and other inquiries, contact BCMA at 0915-9967582 or email at bcma05@gmail.com.

Dencio's
The Bay
THE BAY Center for Music and Arts at The Wharf of Brittany Bay

New Ayala community offers security, serenity as standard features

EVEN IN THE MOST exclusive residential villages in Metro Manila, solid walls around one's home are traditionally the primary line of defense against intruders.

At Sonera, a new phase of Ayala Southvale in Southern Metro Manila, there will be no unsightly walls—just warm views of new homes and landscaped gardens.

Security systems

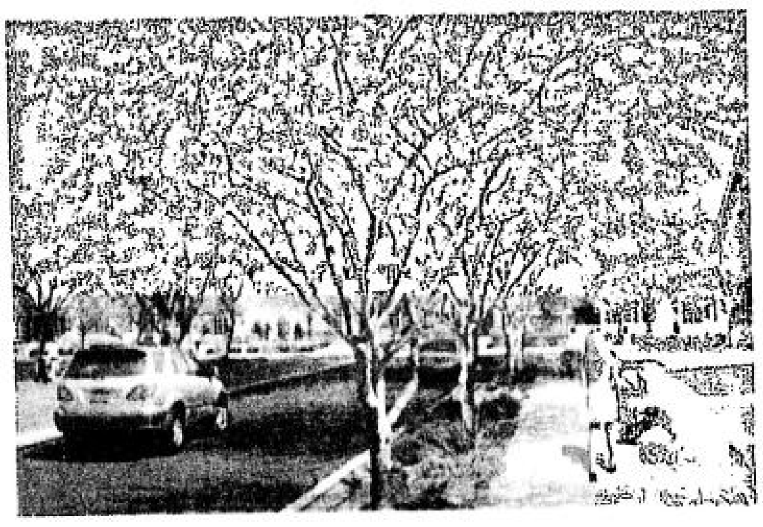
Tom Mirasol, Ayala Land Inc. assistant vice president, assures homeowners that state-of-the-art security systems will make "fortress living" a thing of the past. Homeowners will no longer need to rely on high fences around their homes because security for the entire community will rest on modern, computer-automated protection management systems. These systems provide for the efficient monitoring of access into and out of the village as well as the community's parks and playgrounds and certain perimeter areas.

Areas along Sonera's perimeter for instance, will be monitored by advanced remote infrared sensors and surveillance cameras. Mirasol explains that the sensors will emit rows of invisible beams, forming an "intelligent barrier." Should anything interrupt the beams, a nearby video camera capable of operating in daylight and night conditions will be alerted to record the intrusion.

At the same time, the camera will transmit an image of the scene to the security center so that 24-hour guards can evaluate the situation. The system will further have the ability to differentiate between harmless intruders like neighborhood cats on the prowl and serious security threats.

The recreation areas of Sonera, such as the park and playground, will also be monitored by video cameras. According to Mirasol, it could be possible for homeowners to tap into the system via their home computers and actually keep an eye on their children at the park while the parents are at home. The images captured by the cameras will likewise be recorded so that in cases of emergency, events in these areas can be reviewed and mined for information.

Mirasol explains that similar security systems are already being used in commercial high-traffic areas like hotels and more modern office buildings. In the newer office towers in Makati with 30 to 50 floors, as many as 1,000 visitors—not to mention the employees and executives working on each floor—go in and out of the building, he says. Nevertheless, tight security is achieved through a system of cameras and sensors. He notes that Ayala Land will adapt a similar type of system in Sonera.



HIGH fences which are the hallmark of exclusive villages in Metro Manila, will not be necessary in Sonera, a new phase of Ayala Southvale, where warm views of new homes and landscape gardens will greet homeowners and visitors. Sonera's computer automated protection management system will ensure a secure environment for all homeowners.

V-pass

Security will further be bolstered by a Village Access System or V-pass. The V-pass is similar to the e-pass being used in the South Luzon Expressway. It is an electronically programmed tag that prompts a boom gate to let a vehicle in or out of the village.

Mirasol explains that the tag can also be programmed for "curfew mode" so that whenever the homeowner wants to prevent his vehicles from leaving the village, it will send an appropriate signal at the gate and exit will be barred. Such a devise would also be particularly useful while the homeowner and his family are out for the evening or away on vacation.

The V-pass system also records entry and exit times, a good way to monitor what time young adult members and teenagers of the family got home the night before, smiles Mirasol.

'Panic button'

Moreover, each home in the community will also be able to install a "panic button" which connects directly to the village security center. In case of fire or some other security or health threat, the homeowner need only press the button and help will be on its way.

Comments Mirasol: "Ayala Land's consultants have designed the system so that it becomes easier for our security personnel to focus on the essential task of safeguarding the residents of the community." He adds that homeowners continue to equate security with serenity, two qualities that will characterize Sonera at Ayala Southvale.

VIEW deck at Verde Island Villas Phase II

Own a piece of island paradise

INVESTING in Verde Island Villas, a vacation-residential housing project, located off the waters of Batangas Bay, south of Batangas City and north of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, means owning your own piece of paradise in Isla Verde.

The latest development, which is called Verde Island Villas Phase 2 with an area of five hectares has a limited number of exclusive properties available for purchase on a title basis. This area is part of the 111-hectare property of the Pastor family of Batangas. Most of its phases are also open to all business opportunities like joint venture.

Breathtaking views

Famous for its fertile soil and excellent produce, Isla Verde is also known for its towering clumps of bamboo trees, which provide a feeling of remoteness and seclusion yet still offer amenities of modern life.

Blessed with breathtaking views, rich eco-treasures from all around, pristine waters, coral reef, unspoiled vegetation, as well as novelty of the island and its people, Isla Verde has been described as one of the most significant islands in the southern part of Luzon for biology, conservation and world-class dive expeditions.

Central theme

Moreover, the central theme of houses on Verde Island Villas is a combination of nature and Filipino/Asian architecture suited to this lush tropical setting. But you too can have the island home of your dreams as long as construction and landscaping are planned to preserve the original appearance of the natural scenery.

Available residential lots range from 500 to 1,000 square meters, which is located on the upper hill of the property, east of Verde Island Resort. The layout of Verde Island Villas ensures the utmost privacy and finest ocean views from every lot. Cost of a house would depend on the area, size, design and finishes. However, a ballpark figure of P20,000 to P28,000 can be used as construction budget per square meter.

Whether as a permanent residence or as the ideal island escape, Verde Island Villas presents a unique opportunity to all people walks of life—families, middle-aged people, retirees and Filipinos working abroad—to own a piece of the most prime property development in the country.

For inquiries, you may contact its Makati marketing office at (632) 892-7281 or (632) 892-5849.

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Serendra fulfills urbanites' dream of residential perfection

OWNING a lush, expansive, nature-bound residential community is an elusive dream of city dwellers, mostly due to lack of space, insufficient planning and improper maintenance. Today, living totally secluded from the hectic city life with lots of open spaces yet still just a few minutes away from it all is an expensive and tall feat.

That is, until Ayala Land Inc. and its subsidiary firm Community Innovations Inc. decided to make this dream a reality. The result is a community that offers vast greenery amid a residential haven of modern amenities and conveniences—Serendra.

SERENDRA offers wide open spaces and more greens for outdoor family activities.

Perfection

Situated at the heart of Bonifacio Global City, this innovative condominium development recently invited special guests and up-market clients to the Serendra Pavilion for an evening to preview the various aspects that contribute to its perfection. Welcoming them were ALI and CII executives led by Angie Lacson, senior vice president of Ayala Land and president of Community Innovations together with Rene Almendras, Ayala Land VP for sales and marketing.

The occasion, dubbed "Coming Home to Perfection," proved to be a night of art, beauty, music and high-end metropolitan lifestyle. A mini gallery was set up in the Serendra Pavilion displaying impressive postmodern paintings and sculptures, all created by three of the most famous names in Philippine art: Ben Cabrera, Malang and National Artist Arturo Luz. Also displayed were various exquisitely crafted jewelry pieces and luxury watches from Park Lane Jewelers, as well as majestic ladies' evening ensembles done by Filipino designer Rhett Eala.

The program, which was hosted by TV show personality Suzie Entrata-Abrera, began with a dreamy ballet performance and fashion show, accompanied by live music from supreme violinist, Jay Cayuca.

MIRRORS in this Serendra 1-bedroom unit create a spacious look and feel.

Lavish presentations

Lacson explained how these lavish presentations served as fitting analogies to the real-estate masterpiece that is Serendra. "We're showcasing the best that the art world can offer to illustrate the best in urban living offered by Serendra. Every home here is a masterpiece," she said.

"In Serendra," she continued, "we have combined the best of European community planning with Filipino warmth and sensibility. This will be a complete family sanctuary, bordered by nature, abundant with facilities, seemingly a world apart from the busy cityscape yet just a few minutes away from it all. Nowhere else can you see such a balance of nature, perfect amenities and a prime location."

Impressive development

Reinforcing this impressive description was a scale model of Serendra displayed in its completed form. The guests were able to appreciate even more the sprawling beauty and complexity of this nearly 12-hectare development, about 65 percent of which is devoted to greenery, open spaces and amenities. There will be tree-lined walkways and jogging paths, themed gardens, wading pools and picnic grounds, enough to provide its residents with complete tranquility from the busy city. In addition, Serendra offers game rooms, multi-purpose courts, and a promenade featuring a myriad of shops and restaurants for the dynamic aspect of the lifestyle it offers.

SIMPLE, elegant, clutter-free spaces in this special 3-bedroom unit emphasize the perfection of Serendra.

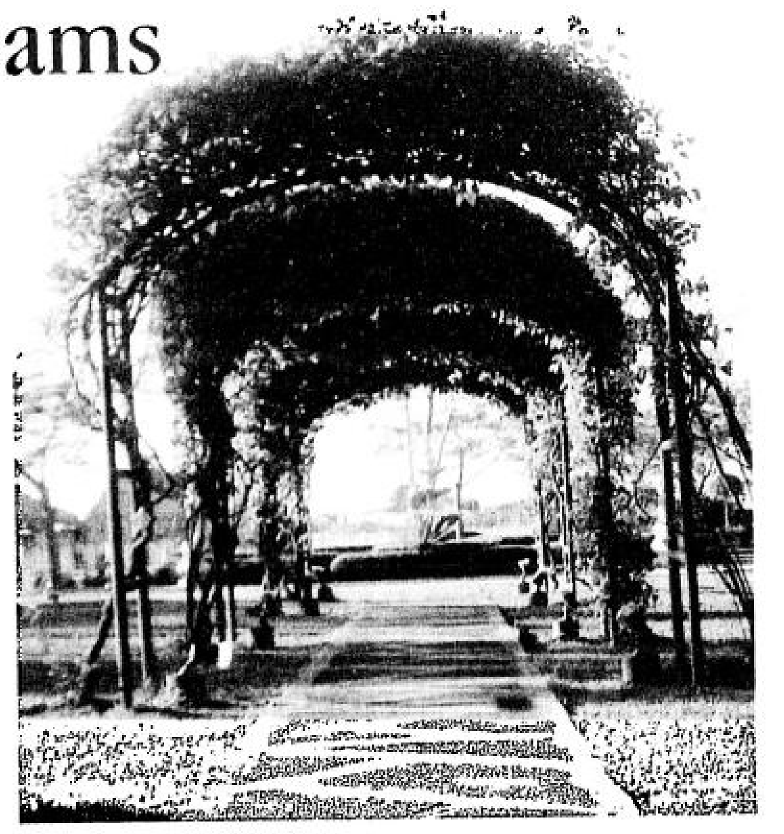
The guests also toured the Serendra model units, all fully furnished and with clean, contemporary designs and spacious, efficient layouts. There are one- to three-bedroom units ideal for couples, young families and even older folks who may be eyeing a second home.

Though seemingly removed from the cityscape, Serendra is nevertheless just a few minutes away from several prestigious schools, world-class hospitals, the Makati financial district and top shopping destinations—just the right spot that further bolsters its claim of residential perfection.

Crown Asia: communities that fulfill dreams

INDIVIDUALS who appreciate the truly important things in life dream of enjoying luxuries earned from years of hard work, building a secure future, and nurturing their growing family—completing such aspirations is owning a beautiful home tucked within an ideal and well-planned community.

After over 10 years of developing unique residential communities, Crown Asia continues to fulfill dreams with its roster of neighborhoods. Incessantly rising across the nation from North to South are quality homes incorporating nature and evoking distinct design influences.



THRIVING landscaping and details evoking Italian influence welcome the residents of Vetta, a new phase of Citta Italia at Imus, Cavite.

Themed communities

Crown Asia proves its title as "Your Home of Choice" with carefully planned and themed communities to complement every lifestyle, need and taste:

- **Presidio.** Crown Asia's first condominium project, Presidio at Brittany Bay redefines vertical living with its symphony of 16 towers interplaying in height and size, creating a self-contained, multilevel environment a view of the Sierra Madre Mountains and refreshing breeze of Laguna de Bay.

With the growing list of career-driven urbanites and families dreaming of a themed home and comfortable lifestyle, the first 4 towers of Presidio—the Da Vinci, Picasso, Michelangelo and Rembrandt have already been sold out in a year. At present Crown Asia is already selling its fifth tower, the Monet. A 6.8-hectare "city by the bay" strategically located at the boundary of bustling Sucat and thriving City of Taguig, each tower at Presidio draws influence from San Francisco's Neo-Victorian architecture.

- **Citta Italia.** A residential enclave of more than 70 hectares, Citta Italia is located in the tranquil environment of Imus, Cavite. Already a flourishing community, Citta Italia has grown to 11 phases, with Vetta (Italian for "peak") and Brescia as its newest phases. Within the community are lovely single-detached abodes that combine cosmopolitan living with the elegance of Italy.
- **Maia Alta.** Sited at Antipolo, Maia Alta's environment boasts of a peaceful ambiance in which families are safe and secure, while living amid lush landscaping and greenery. Wide open spaces allow children to frolic, treasuring moments of carefree fun and laughter. Warm Mediterranean colors and architectural influences make the homes in Maia Alta reminiscent of countryside villages in Italy. Its newest phase is The Terraces, offering a choice of elegant model homes called the Crown Jewels.
- **Cottonwoods.** Located in Antipolo, the residents of Cottonwoods are artists and families desiring of a home with serene surroundings interspersed with nature. Residents enjoy the cool temperature of Antipolo's elevated terrains. The community is over 40 hectares of unspoiled nature and lush landscaping, offering a wide range of cozy single-detached American country-style model homes to choose from.
- **Fortezza.** With view of fabled Mt. Banahaw and Mt. Makiling, Fortezza is located in Cabuyao, Laguna—just two minutes from the South Luzon Expressway and an easy 25- to 40-minute drive from Makati. Residents of Fortezza are able to bask in the green outdoors of Laguna, with homes inspired by Italian architectural influences, carefully designed and structured to complement their natural surroundings. These influences are reflected in warm Mediterranean hues and designs intended for comfortable living, blending nature and the rustic, tranquil air.

Staying in the community

Residents of each Crown Asia community need not leave the neighborhood for leisure or rejuvenation. Athletic and leisure amenities and facilities can be enjoyed within the community—from a clubhouse, basketball court, tennis court, gym, barbecue areas, jogging paths, swimming pool, to landscaped gardens and rotundas.

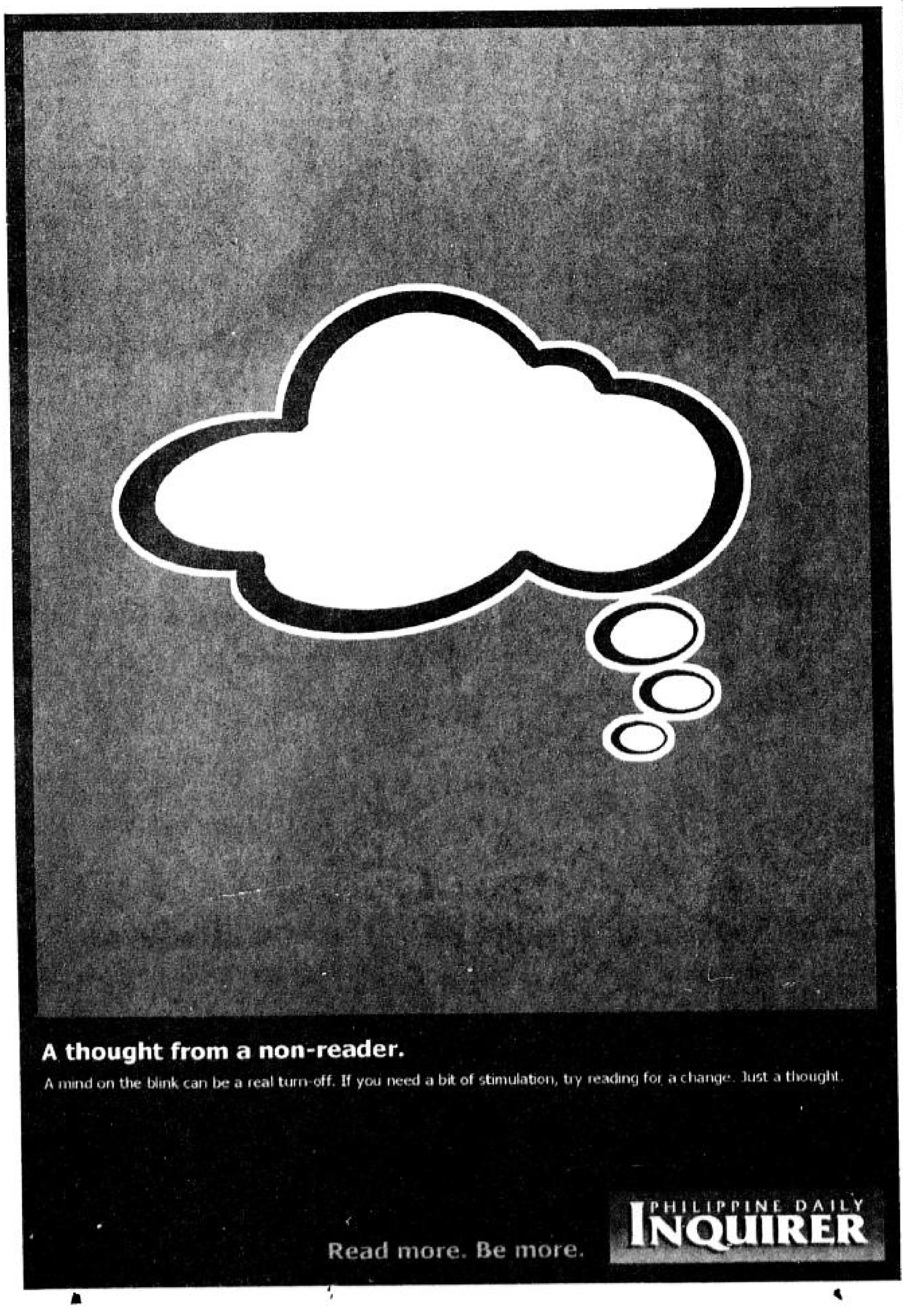
Noted companies in their respective industries join Crown Asia in "building greater values into your home." There is the ingenious masterplanning and architectural design of Recio+Casas and SCA, the splendor of creative landscaping by noted landscape artist Robert Gopiao, Benny Velasco and Jojo Lazaro, and the unique interiors of top designers Pinky Cruz, Wilmer Lopez and Trina Adapon-Jacinto.

5 new projects

There's still more from Crown Asia as they launch five new projects in the next few months: namely, Amici, Amalfi, Valenza, Residenza and Woodberry.

The thoughtful and effective masterplanning of every Crown Asia project—from past, present to future—are guided by the five core values they persistently adhere to: greenery, security, choices, serenity and attainability.

Visit different communities of Crown Asia and discover life's affordable luxuries. Property previews may be arranged by calling Crown South at 873-1614 or 873-6610, Crown North at 634-9001 or 634-9002, and Crown Towers at 892-8482, 718-3400 or 718-3402.



A thought from a non-reader.

A mind on the blink can be a real turn-off. If you need a bit of stimulation, try reading for a change. Just a thought.

Read more. Be more.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2005

PHILIPPINE DA Y IN IRE

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Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

Super!Countdown

4 days 'til Super! anniv

PLAYAH

Uno, dos, Super! We turn two page D1

This play will self-destruct in 48 hours page F2

Mt. Pinatubo is a real ash hole page G1

This Rooster rocks hard page F1

Photography: KEN GO
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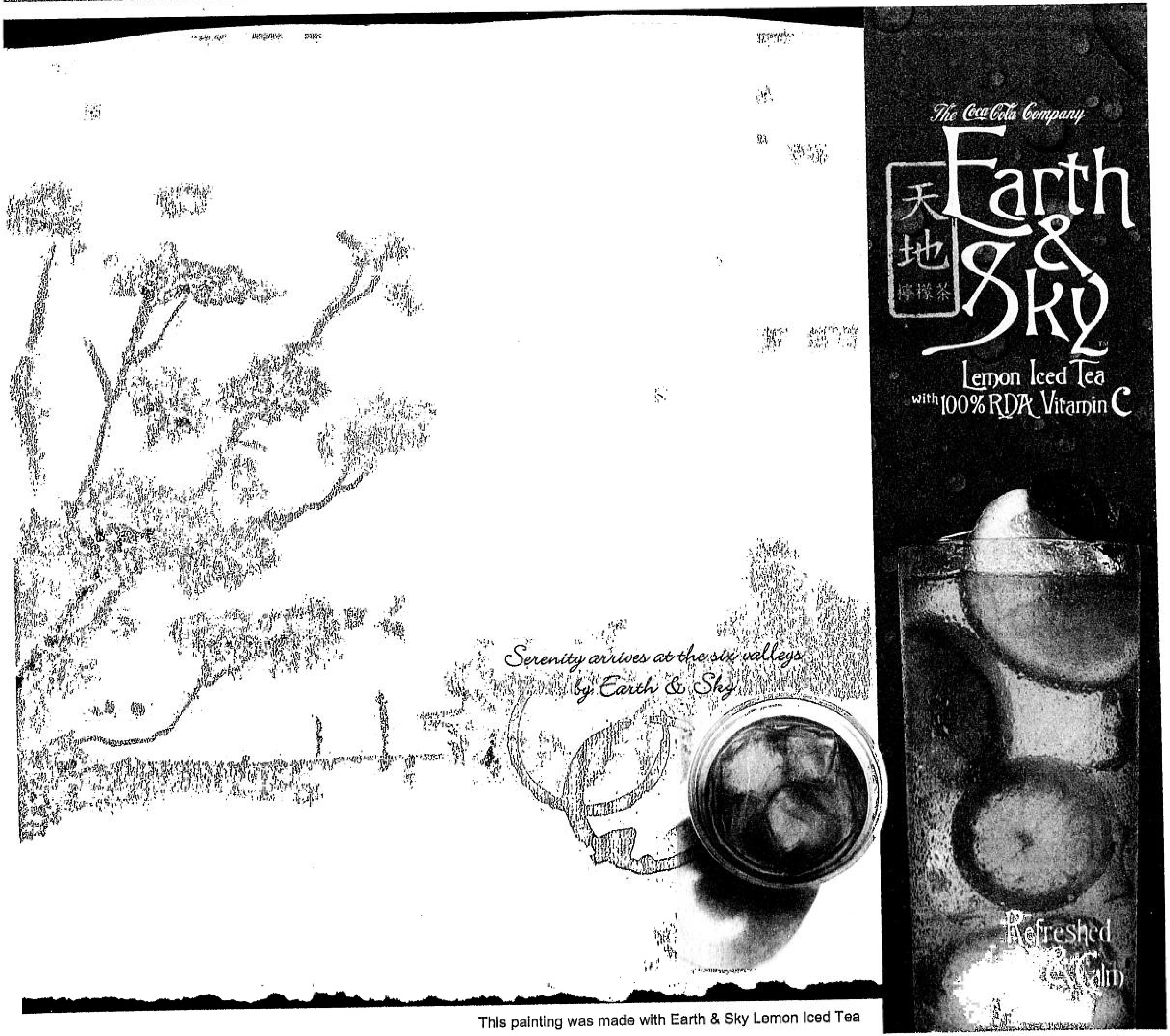

Serenity arrives at the six valleys by Earth & Sky

This painting was made with Earth & Sky Lemon Iced Tea

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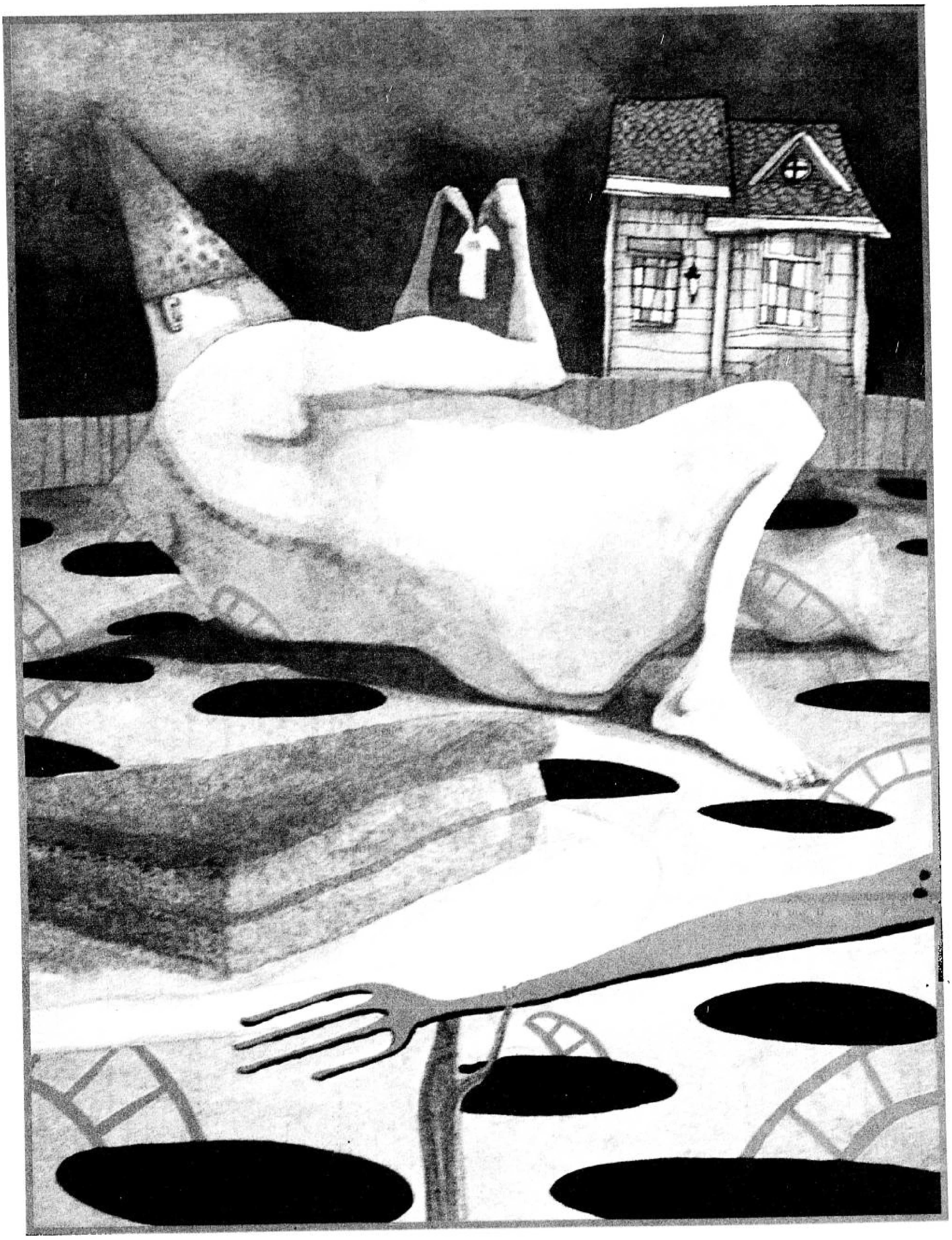


Playing by the rules

When we no longer allow ourselves to hope, then we have committed spiritual suicide

By Katrina Holigores
Original artwork by Jason Moss

IN THE GAME of life, we often hear ourselves crying "foul!" We feel cheated, discredited, unjustly passed over as we go from point A to B. From an early age, most of us are programmed by figures of authority—family or teachers—to believe that happiness means being the best at something (or everything).

The rules seem simple enough. Studying hard=good grades=good job. Good looking=popular=choice of relationships. Good family=good spouse=good marriage. I'm simplifying things a bit, but you get the picture.

Reality then hits. Despite abiding by the rules set by parents, teachers, peers or society, we are still nowhere near the pinnacle of happiness or fulfillment we desire. This strikes a painful, sometimes fatal, blow on our self esteem putting us in danger of living the rest of our life on auto-pilot.

Great Escape

Those planning their futures have to realize the road ahead is not smooth. Career- or relationship-wise there are many hurdles to overcome. At some point, we may find ourselves throwing up our hands in frustration and wondering out loud why we even bother.

And we look for ways of escape—partying the night away; drowning our sorrows in alcohol and mind-altering drugs; and/ or superficial relationships that do not require commitment or emotional investment. Life has thrown you a curve ball and perhaps it is better to give up and just watch from the sidelines.

Look around you, for many people you know (maybe including yourself?), it's "game over."

I spend a lot of time on the road constantly shifting the radio dial listening for something new. Although the iPod shuffle promises a random (surprise!!) selection of songs, for me that's cheating.

Though I am certainly not a fan of hip hop (or is it R&B?), I recently heard a song which was primarily rap that I wish to share with those who have moved to the sidelines. The song is called "Hope" and though some words are way too fast for me to absorb, the message is simple. Part of the chorus says, "Be hopeful, and He'll make a way..."

Now, for those uncomfortable with religious references, let's just replace "He" with "life." When we no longer allow ourselves to hope, then we have committed spiritual suicide.

How can we, through pain, past or current issues, keep our chin up, look ahead and soldier on? Bear in mind that disappointments result from expectations. Just because things don't work out as expected does not meant that nothing will ever work out. Instead of focusing on what did not work out, why not try something else?

Be grateful

No one likes an ungracious guest—life included. So, since you are important enough to be invited to its party, then a "thank you" is in order, don't you think? You may groan, "Be thankful for what?" One look at the headlines or the state of your personal affairs and being thankful may be the farthest thing from your mind.

Sometimes we focus on what is missing rather then what is already there. If you want to wake up each day with a brighter, lighter outlook on life then it's time to get down and be grateful. Here's one way to start:

Get a notebook and a pen. The notebook can be fancy, but chances are you will never write in it. Something practical will do. Everyday write down three things, no more, no less, that you are grateful for. It doesn't matter what time of day you start as long as you put down those three items.

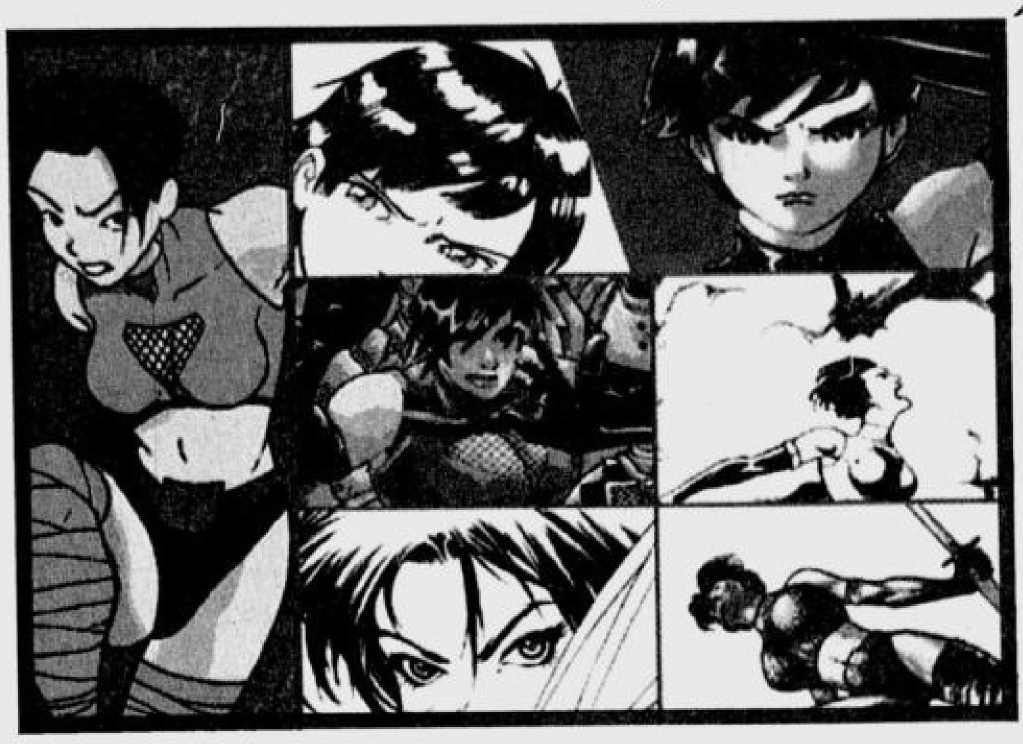
What you write need not be deep or complicated. You can write just a single complete sentence or bullet points. You can make it funny or poetic. The only rule is to mean what you say. Your personality will shine through when you start to write. Before the day is over, take time to go over what you wrote.

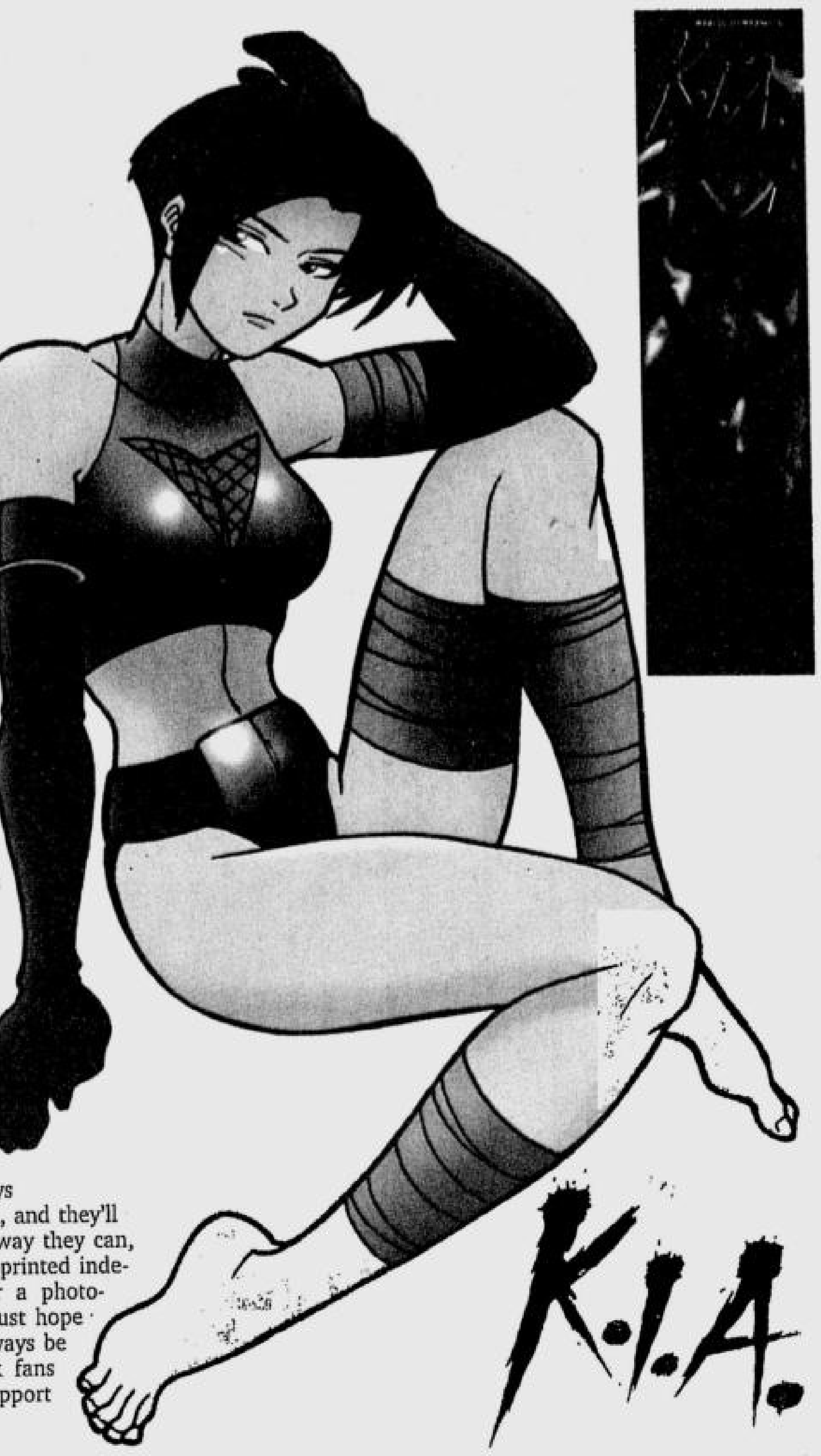
You may write something as simple as "today I am grateful that I had three full meals," "today I am grateful that no one I love is sick," "today I am grateful for finding a parking space when I got to work." You will find that whatever "load" you may be carrying feels a little lighter.

Now you are looking at the positive things in your life. They happen to you every single day. Wow, when you actually think about it, something, no, at least three wonderful things happen to you everyday. When you wake up in the morning, you can probably start the day by writing "I am grateful today for waking up."

Trust me, when you begin your day with an awareness of what you should be thankful for, your vision of your future starts to change... for the better.

Life does play fair. We just have to follow some of its rules and remember how good it is to be a lifetime member.





Kai—aka Agent K, aka K is a femme fatale, an assassin off the pages of K.I.A., the new graphic novel by Marco Dimaano

She's not human!

By James Gabrillo
and Pepe Diokno

HEY GUYS, wanna interview a comic book character?

Normally, we'd say no—like, we're not Steve Martin—or David Hasselhoff—we just don't do... fake people.

But, at the risk of death, we had to. The subject: Kai—aka Agent K, aka K, (the list goes on to negative K)—femme fatale, assassin chick off the pages of K.I.A., this new graphic novel created by Marco Dimaano. (The book is already out, peeps! Get it! Get it!)

(~~She threatened us!~~) She was really nice. (~~She told us she'd cut it off if we refused to interview her!~~) She told us it's okay if we didn't have time for her. (~~She's weird.~~) She's great. It was really fun (~~e-mailing~~) sitting down and talking to her.

Hey, Kai!

Would you kick our asses if we ask the wrong question?

(Smiles pleasantly) No, of course not. Contrary to what you may have heard, I only start ripping spines out when attacked first.

You're sexy and deadly. What makes you Super! compared to other femme fatales like Elektra, Sydney Bristow, Le Femme Nikita, Aeon Flux?

Thanks for the compliment. My main power is the ability to learn an opponent's skills and counter them. Secondary is my partial immortality, which lets me keep ticking even after I get "fatally" hit. Sydney Bristow and Nikita are just not in my league. Elektra would probably get some good stabs with her *sai*, but, when close, I'd grab her and that's that. As for Aeon Flux, I can probably snap her like a twig. Did you see how thin she is?

You were created to be the nemesis of another heroine, Angel Ace. But we hear that you're more than a simple ruthless killing machine. Reveal your real self to us.

Originally I was Angel's best friend, who became her enemy but was revealed eventually to be still her best friend. Well, after that, I was assassinated by my own commander and resurrected with new powers and no memories of my past. My main motivation is recovering my past, no matter where that search leads.

Your comic book's main issue is how you search for your identity in a world that continually seeks to dehumanize you. Why do you think this is such a big personal battle for everyone in the real world?

Well, in the real world there are few things people really have control of without corporations, governments and even religion having something to say. A person's identity, whether he/she reveals it to the world or not, is his/her own. It's the one thing unique to anyone, so keeping it safe is paramount.

Do you think this "search for identity" has to do with faith, morality or mind work?

I'm a soldier and an assassin, and all I have are my mission and my code. I have no real home, not even in the KALI organization. The only place where you can be safe and secure in is in your own body, in your own mind. If I'm going to stay alive either as Kai or as 'Agent K', I'm going to have to like who I really am and live with her. That's why identity is so important.

What is the scum of society? How do you plan to kick it into oblivion?

The most despicable scum are those at the top; the ones who control all and are, by most standards, untouchable. That's where professionals like me come in. How do I plan to kick them into oblivion? With pleasure.

MARCO DIMAANO'S
K.I.A.

On to more serious stuff...

Does size matter?

No. I've fought opponents twice and half my size, and it all boils down to how honed their combat skills are. *(Eyes narrow)* That IS what you were asking about, right...?

If you were a plant, how would you want to die?

I'd be a nice shade tree where kids can play under. My ultimate fate would be to become a nice, comfy rocking chair. Silly, really...

What is your opinion of graphic novel artists? Are they hot?

The ones I know are really funny and good conversationalists. I guess they're hot for me, but I don't know if my definition of "hot" is like most girls'...

What about Super! writers? Are they hot?

(Smiles) Yes, you guys are hot.

If you were to assassinate a real person, who would it be and how?

I think it would be really nice to bury my foot in some kidnappers' faces. I'd also like to do the same to at least half of your politicians.

Do you have a fitness regimen?

Strangely enough, I don't. My body is always this fit, no matter what I eat, so usually I just sleep or read in between missions. Now you know why most of the other girls in KALI hate me.

Is Osama Bin Laden dead?

I've killed three of him already. They'll just clone more, so why bother.

Did you find Hayden Christensen hot... after he was scorched by lava?

Not at all. They say good girls always fall for the bad guy... I'm hardly what you'd consider a good girl. Anyway, I think Obi Wan is quite... hot.

Do you watch The Contender? If yes, do you feel it's right that they let the children watch their dads suffer on the boxing ring?

I'm more of an Amazing Race person. I just find American boxing so boring since nobody uses their legs. Give me a Muay Thai version of that show and maybe I'll consider giving it a look.

What is love?

I think I'm going to start kicking asses now...

To creator Marco Dimaano

Who are the main influences in your work?

Hayao Miyazaki, Kosuke Fujishima (Oh! My Goddess), Frank Miller, Jim Lee, Joe Madureira, J. Scott Campbell, Frank Cho, Pol Medina, Jr. Too many to count! I find influences every day.

Your comic book is a big collaborative work. How was it like working with 20 different storytellers and artists?

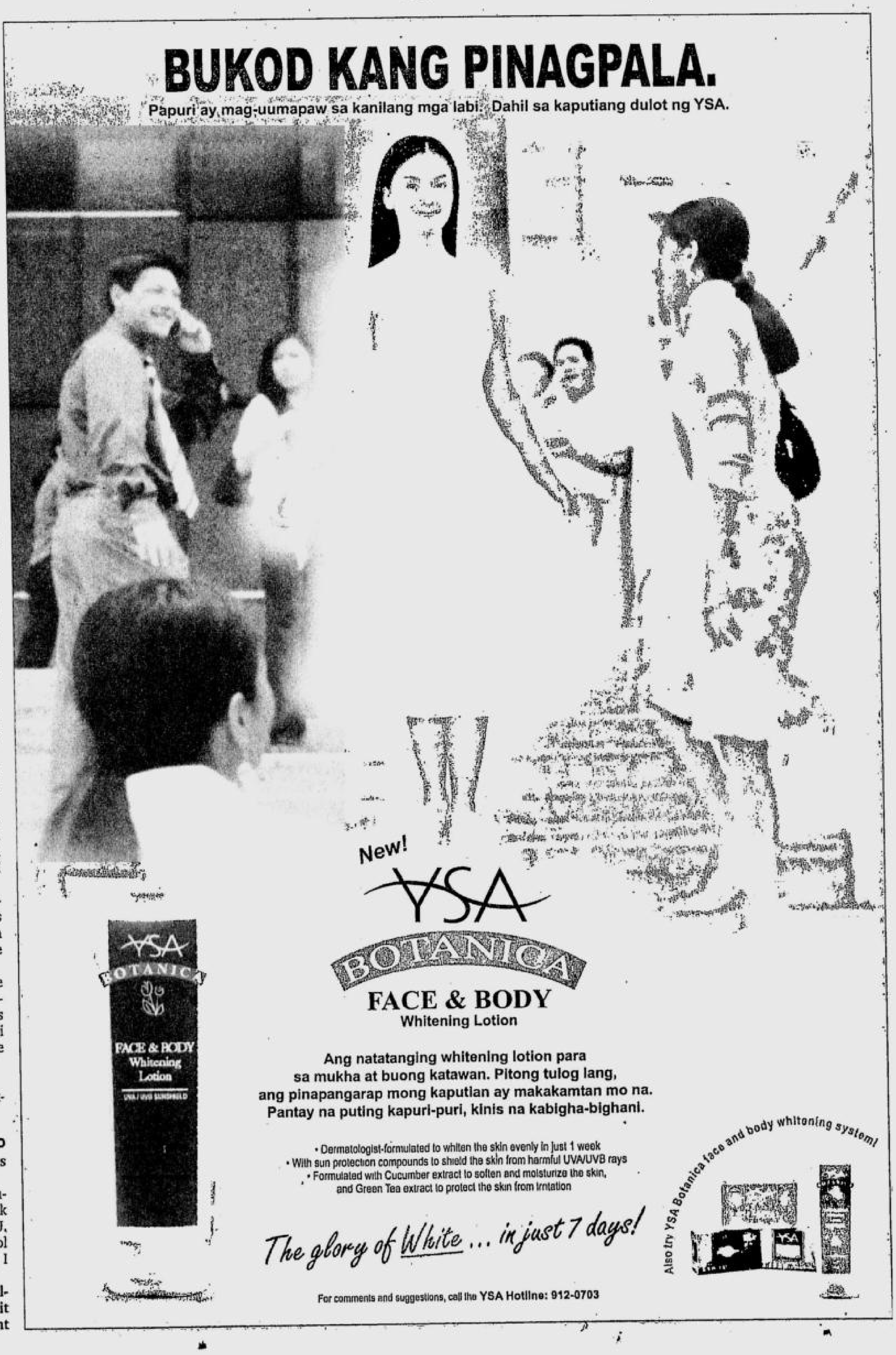
It was so interesting and exciting to be able to work with so many talented individuals, both newbies and veterans in the comic biz. I still find myself looking back and saying, "How did I manage to pull that off?"

Did you fear that the 20 people wouldn't be able to capture who KAI really is? That they wouldn't be able to handle her well?

Not really... I felt that I gave very clear directions for the character. Also, I oversaw all of the stories and scripts at every stage, so things were kept in order. The variety in look that resulted was one of the first book's strengths. I love input and, seeing the character from more than one viewpoint, is always good.

Where do you think is the Pinoy comic book world going?

As far as I can tell, it will continue as it always has. The Filipino comic book creators will always have stories to tell, and they'll go for it the best way they can, whether in a well-printed independent comic or a photocopied ashcan. I just hope that there will always be Pinoy comic book fans out there to support them.



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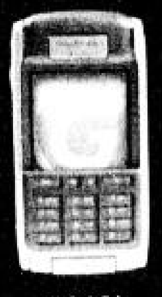

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Lights, camera, Super!

Super is turning two and we celebrated it at the Manila Fashion Festival with stilt-walkers, men on unicycles, models in various states of undress and people who love fashion

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Our Wednesday night was filled with visions of feathery men, attention-grabbing mimes, giant teddy bears and wind instruments that made no sounds.

The Manila Fashion Festival at the NBC Tent was a kaleidoscope of color, people and clothes.

It was fun, it was crazy, it was surreal at times—pretty much like the past two years that we've had, living double lives as your Super! friends.

A variety of brands with a variety of styles—Bayo, Folded and Hung, Freeway, Plains and Prints, Novecento, Culte Femme, Rustan's Salt and Black Label Homme—came together to achieve one goal—to create an unforgettable night for the local fashion industry.

Which is pretty much how your Super! team works, too. Different people with different quirks and different dreams united by the passion to bring life to your Super! Saturdays.

And although at the end of our night, unlike at the Manila Fashion Festival, there's no confetti, no balloons falling from the ceiling, no thunderous applause, just knowing we made you smile, we made you laugh, we made you mad enough to write us long, long e-mails; we made you think, we made you read is enough to keep us going for the next two gazillion years:

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Everytime I Close My Eyes	Kenny G feat. Babyface	closemyeyes
Misty	Kenny G feat. Gladys Knight	misty
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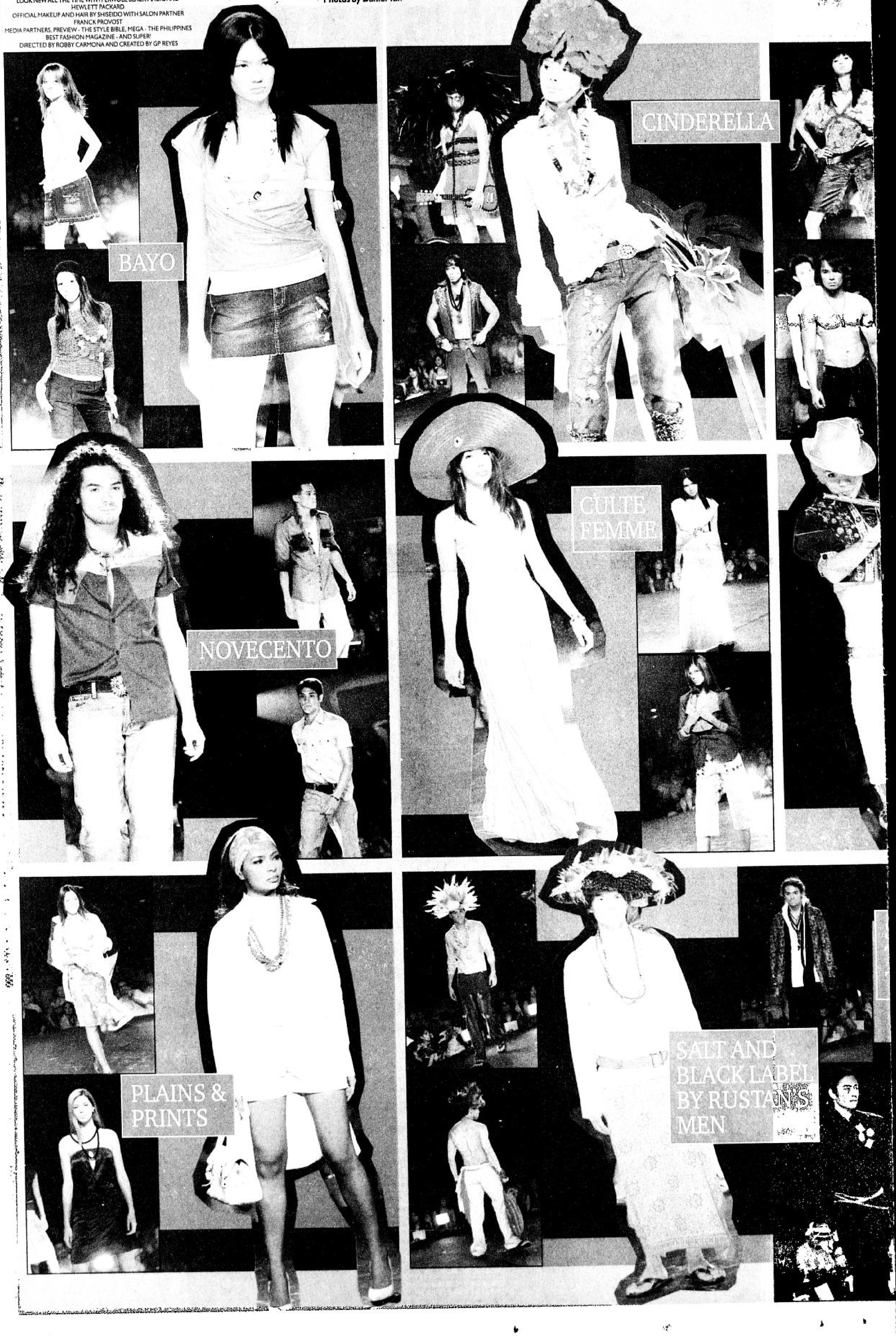
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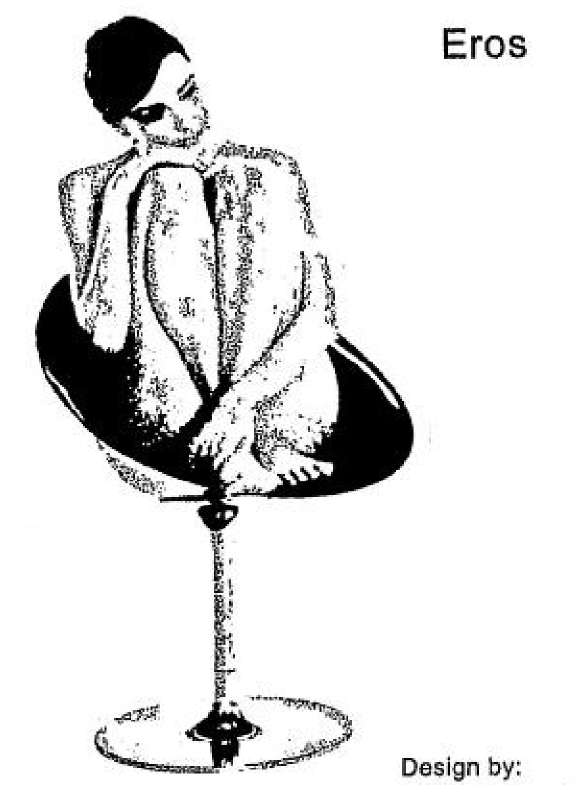
Eros



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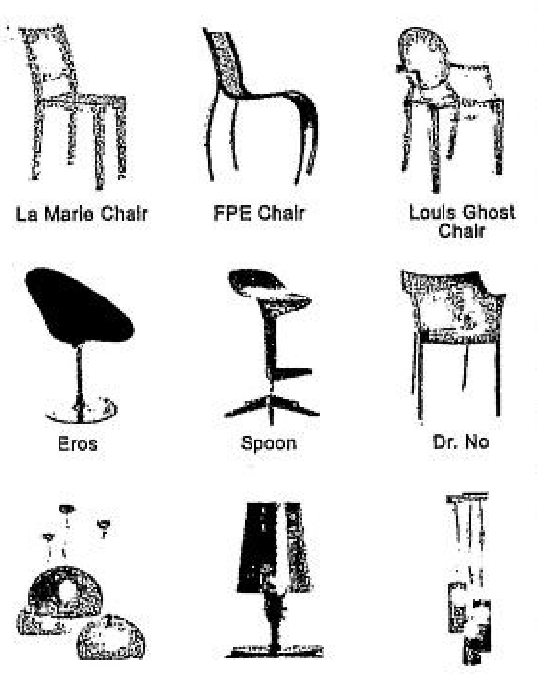

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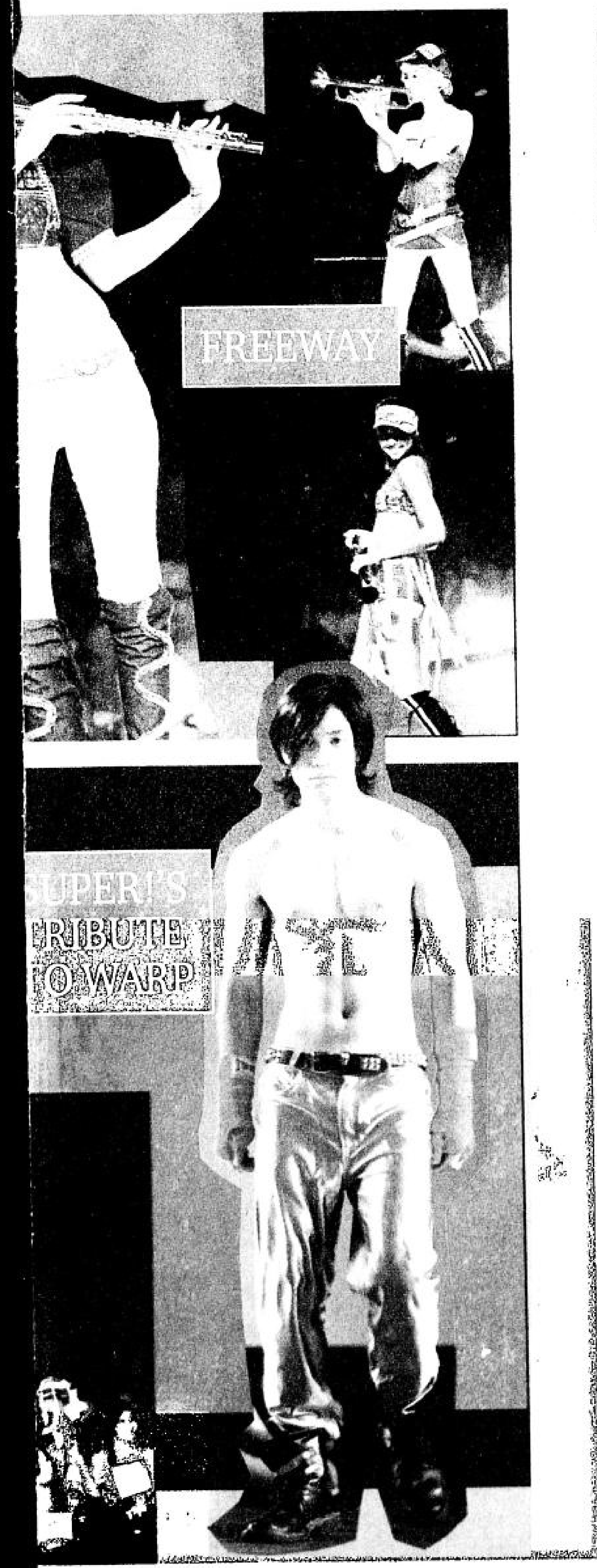

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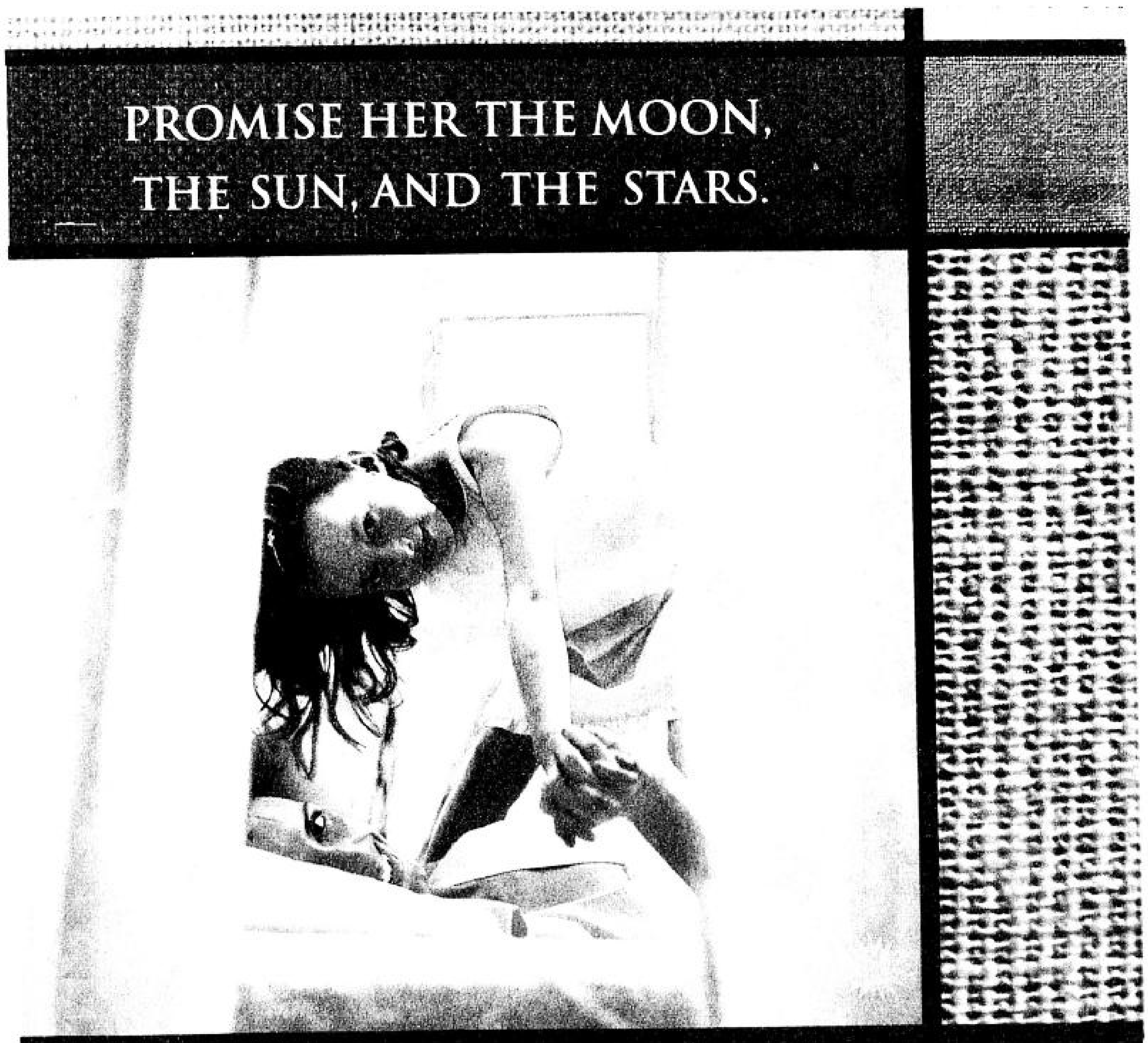

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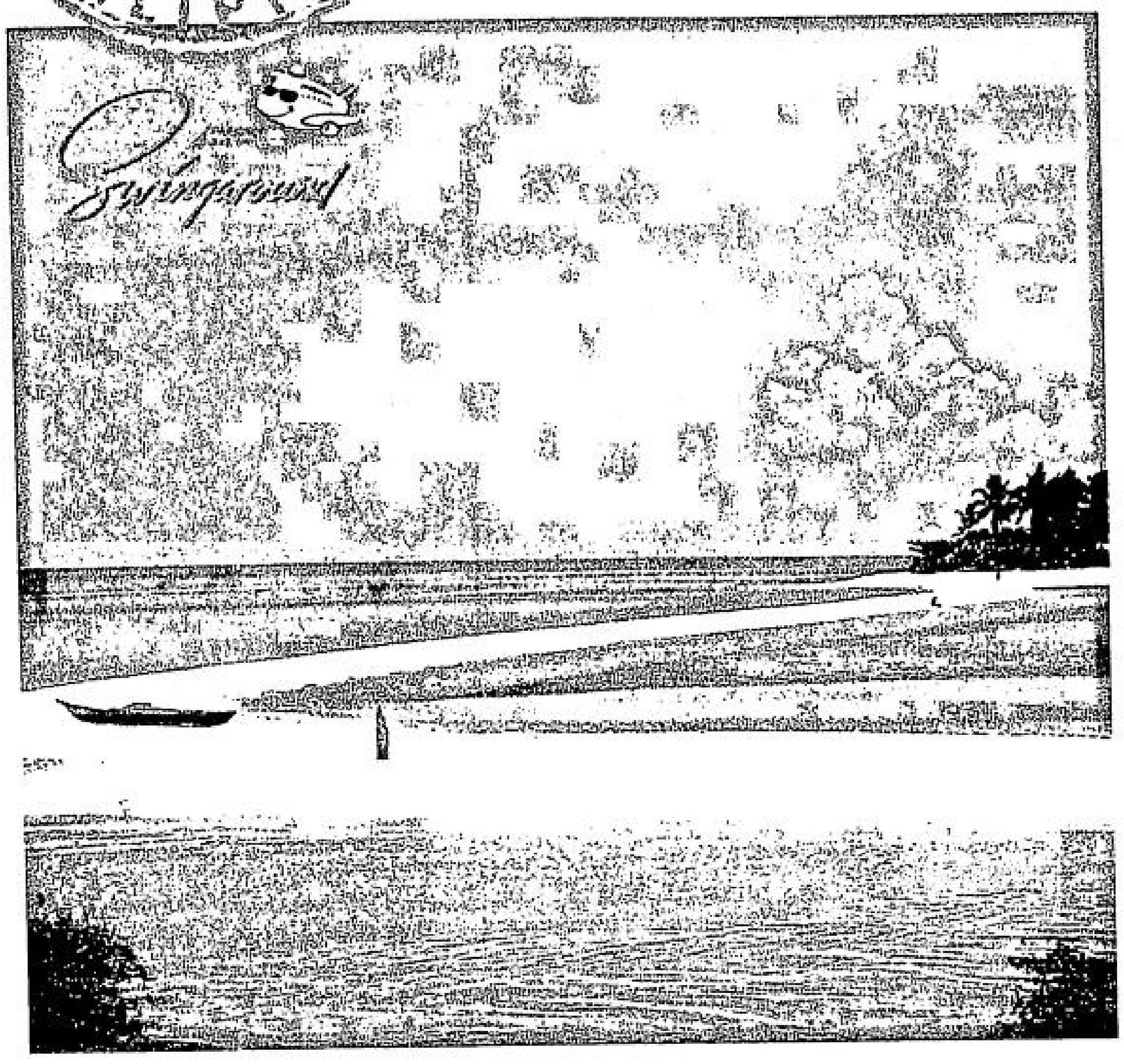

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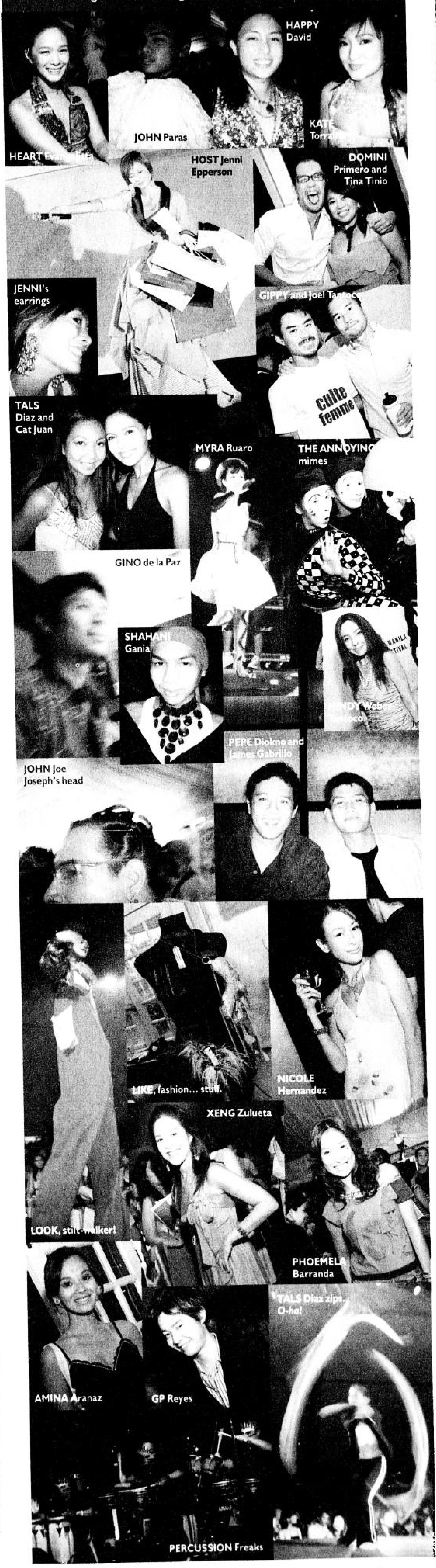
All it takes.

Friends, strangers and strangeness at the Manila Fashion Festival



HEART Eva

JOHN Paras

HAPPY David

KATE Torra

HOST Jenni Epperson

DOMINI Primero and Tina Tinio

JENNI's earrings

GIPPY and Joel Tantoc

TALS Diaz and Cat Juan

MYRA Ruaro

THE ANNOYING mimes

GINO de la Paz

SHAHANI Gania

INDY Weber Tantoco

JOHN Joe Joseph's head

PEPE Diokno and James Gabrillo

LIKE, fashion… stuff.

NICOLE Hernandez

XENG Zulueta

LOOK, stilt-walker!

PHOEMELA Barranda

TALS Diaz zips. *O-ha!*

AMINA Aranaz

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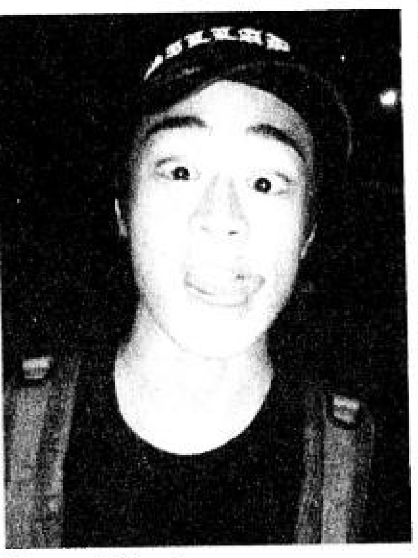
I am SUPER: because AVERAGE is just too CORNY!
E-mail: learnmore@peta.com

Victor Basa
I am SUPER: in a lot of things, super moody, super high strung, super loving.
E-mail: indienosuchthing@anytron.com

Crizenda Cecilio
I am SUPER: and a Cal Carrie model!
E-mail: zenjor@yahoo.com

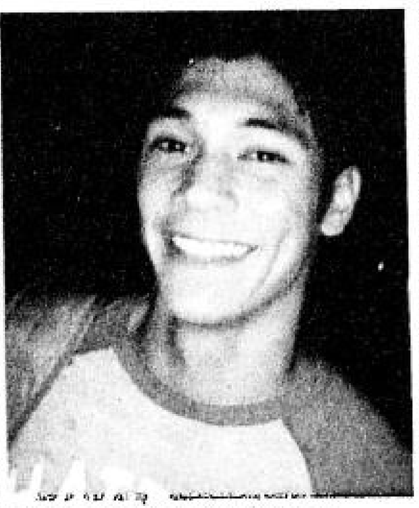
Superfriends goes to the Manila Fashion Festival

Text and Photos by David Milan
Want to be on Superfriends? E-mail me at david_milan@lycos.com



Brent Javier
I am SUPER: because my mom said so.
E-mail: notmyrealemail@bmail.com

Kit Barraquias
I am SUPER: because I'm K-I-T! *wink* *wink*
E-mail: kit.barraquias@yahoo.com



Einar Ingerbristen
I am SUPER: C-O-O-L! Haha!
E-mail: ejnartens@hotmail.com

Nicolette Bell
I am SUPER: O.C.
E-mail: nicolette_bell@yahoo.com

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A hairy experience

SOME of the funkiest hairdos I've ever seen outside my bathroom

ANY EVENT about style is a must for TV host Jenni Epperson

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andy MAUCHE

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RECENTLY, I was in an event at the New World Hotel featuring Majirel Absolu hair technology by L'Oreal. It was an orgy of hair color and style. Beautiful models, fabulously and daringly dressed up by Puey Quinones, traversed the catwalk with dramatically shaped and excitingly colored hair. Renowned British stylist Andrew Barton and his partner Tracey Gallagher were invited to mess with the model's hair some more. The results – looked awesome.

My blue hair and sophisticated style had everybody thinking I was part of the show. But I was not. I never dye my hair. And since it was Mother's Day the next day, I grabbed the opportunity to clarify something. Unlike all those beautiful people on the show I have natural colored hair. I inherited my hair from my mother's side and my mom has the nicest blue hair in the world.

I like to point out that I love my mom and I am not only saying this because she still dresses me every morning.

Chi Chi Atienza of Nullah, fashion designer Puey Quinones, media and PR practitioner GP Reyes, race car driver Pia Boren, television host Angel Jacob, musician Barbie Almalbis, artist Kiko Escora, chef Farah Ylagan, eyewear stylist Vivian Sarabia, and fashion stylist Jenni Epperson were all crowned "Society Absolutes" and Xeng Zulueta made sure they looked good in their honorable positions.

Besides those chosen ones the event was packed with many more style-setters like Rhett Eala, Jacques Dupasquier, Carmina Sanchez, Philip Cu-Unjieng, JR Isaac, Daphne Oseña, Michael Salientes, Cecile Zamora, L'Oreal's managing director David Ennes, general manager Samantha Vong, business unit manager Tricia Duavit, product manager Barbie Ramos, Asiazone technical director Christopher Chu, and Technico commercial manager Anna Andres; salon owners Jesi Mendez, Peachy Zulueta of Piandre, Ed Angeles, Angelo Justin, Cherry Reyes with Gil Coscolluela.

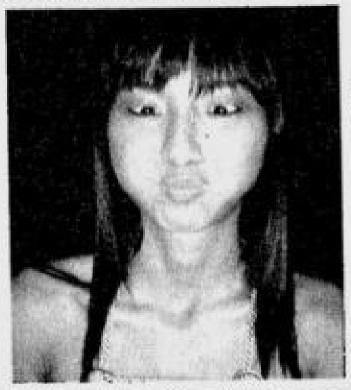
FAMOUS jewelry designer Rene Coster not only helped out Puey Quiñones with his beautiful accessories, he even jumped in as a substitute model when one was missing. And he was great.

BRITISH stylist Andrew Barton baffled everyone, especially his models, with his eccentric styling techniques

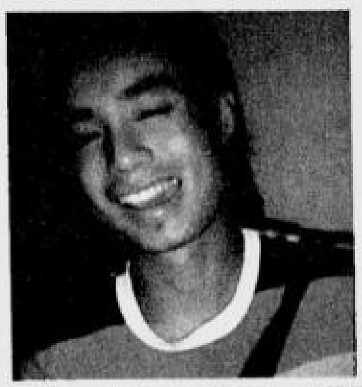
Robby Mananquil
I am SUPER: because I'm contented.
E-mail: robby_m9@yahoo.com

Valerie delos Santos
I am SUPER: because I'm in LOVE.
E-mail: val_dls@yahoo.com

Brad Murdoch
I am SUPER: when I touch my nose with my tongue.
E-mail: brad_jarlego_murdoch@yahoo.com.au



Jeng Cuyugan
I am SUPER: and uniquely gorgeous! Haha!
E-mail: jeng_cuyugan516@yahoo.com



Bon Syiaco
I am SUPER: because I'm getting my engineering degree in a few months.
E-mail: denver_syiaco@yahoo.com

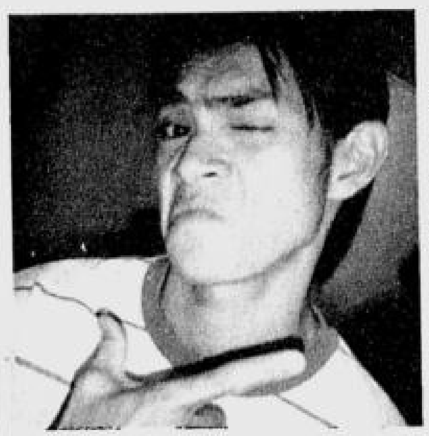
2tay Maristela
I am SUPER: because I try to be the best that I can be.
E-mail: 2tay@myway.com

Ryan Eigennman
I am SUPER: because... I can fly.
E-mail: none

Niña Naval
I am SUPER: because I'm in this column... hehe.
E-mail: ninya_naval@yahoo.com

Don Mendoza
I am SUPER: because I want to live my life to the fullest.
E-mail: dunee_beelog@yahoo.com

Kristel Tingzon
I am SUPER: when it comes to adventures!
E-mail: hermail_1221@yahoo.com



Bim Cecilio
I am SUPER: because I'm an MTV fashionista winner and Wazzup Wazzup beach bum.
E-mail: cherubimtito@yahoo.com

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Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

24-YEAR-OLD Nick Atkinson did not know that betting on a horse named Rooster Booster would make him £250 richer.

But, together with guitarist Luke Potashnick, 22; drummer David Neale, 19; and bassist Ben Smyth, 19, he knew it would make an excellent name for a band.

Drawing inspiration from the 1970s, Rooster's arena-ready choruses and heavy rock riffs recall classic English and American rock guitarists. Aside from tipping their trucker caps to Cream, Aerosmith and Led Zeppelin, however, these anthem-makers-in-the-making put an infectious hip-hop spring in their step.

"Rather than rocking out like the headbangers, we wanted to get a sort of bouncing thing going," Luke says.

The 12 tracks on their self-titled debut are friendly enough to sing along to yet rough enough to be in the same iPod playlist as, say, the Black Crowes. "Come Get Some" and "Staring at the Sun" are already proven hits in the United Kingdom. But the boys have also got jams for driving into the sunset with the top down, like "You're so Right for Me." (That and "She Don't Make Me Feel" are perfect for hopping up and down while you're high on tequila. Oops, that's just me.)

Super! got down with Rooster's Nick Atkinson and Ben Smyth and here's what they crowed about:

Do you know what happened to Rooster Booster, the horse you bet on?

Nick: We do actually, yeah. Apparently, the owner is a Rooster fan. Rooster Booster's been retired now from horse racing, so it's probably having fun galloping around.

Ben: (laughs) Yeah, galloping around polo fields.

Awesome. At least it's alive and not glue! Or is it? Anyway, how did you guys start?

Nick: I went to school with Luke, the guitarist, down by the south coast of England.

Brighton? That's my favorite university city.

Nick: Near Brighton. Eastport. Yeah, just about half an hour from there. So we were down in London and we got together and we started writing. In about a month or so we got a load of tracks. We were having a good time, so we thought, "Hey, let's put a band together." We didn't know any bass players so we put an advert in the rock press, Kerrang and NME, back home and we were lucky enough to find Ben, a very young, passionate guy. Awesome bass player.

> For a band named after a horse that's named after a farm animal, Rooster sure is the freshest thing to happen to young, British rock in a long time

You're the first act to sign with Brightside/BMG, right?

Nick: I've been in and around the music industry for like four years and I met this guy before who started a brand new label (Hugh Goldsmith of Brightside/BMG) so I gave him a call and he came down to see us in the rehearsal room.

The rest, I guess, is history. I noticed that you, Nick, and Luke Potashnick, the guitarist, shared songwriting credits on most of the songs on the CD. Do you have any rituals when you write? How long does it normally take you to write a track?

Some tracks were written in two hours. But the song "Standing in Line," we wrote that in five hours. Some songs, maybe you write the chorus and the rest just sort of comes.

You guys built your songs around a big chorus.

Nick: We really don't have a clear set of rules when it comes to writing. You know, it can start from a riff, start from the melody, start from a lyric, start from a groove. It's a creative process and we'd like to keep it that way. Keep it open. Keep the ideas flowing.

Are the other guys involved in the process as well?

Nick: Yeah, we pretty much mainly wrote the first album before we got the other guys involved but we all decided to write the album, too. It's pretty much the four of us so we come up with an idea, go to rehearsal, thrash it out for a few hours and see where it takes us.

From West London to the world

Where has your music taken you so far? And where do you hope it will take you in the future?

Nick: Aside from being all over the UK and Ireland, we went to Japan [for an NHK showcase] just before coming to the Philippines.

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MUSIC FROM OUT 7PM IN HERE
jamie oehlers quartet

Brave the downpour

By Paolo R. Reyes and Janine Cuenca-Dario

AS WEARY travelers stumble back to town from destinations abroad and around the country, they will find the city humming with all sorts of events and activities as the hot and dry season draws to a close.

Though rain clouds are constantly hovering, don't let the threat of a downpour dampen your spirits. Make the most of the attractions lined up this week.

MOVIE AWARDS
MOVIE WORLD
V BAR

MTV Movie Awards: Manila Bar Tour, 9 tonight

V Bar [G/F, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati, phone: 8928303] opens its doors for the Manila Bar Tour of the 2005 MTV Movie Awards. VJs KC Montero, Claire Olivar, Don Puno, and Colby Miller host the event that will feature hip-hop grooves by DJ Ace and the rocking tunes of Kjwan. Call the organizers at 8899251.

Tibok Sining sa Reposo, May 28-29

Nicanor Garcia Street (formerly Reposo) in Makati City will be closed to vehicular traffic this weekend for "Tibok Sining sa Reposo," a street festival featuring arts and crafts bazaar, food fair, film screenings, art exhibitions and lectures, silent auctions, and evening performances by Cookie Chua, Grupo Flamenco de Señor Gomez, Ateneo Dancers, St. Scholastica's College Chamber Music Quartet, and Bayang Barrios. Call 7243032 or 8955470.

Makati Music Festival: Classic, May 30

Internationally acclaimed pianist Raul Sunico performs at the close of the Makati Music Festival. The classical concert starts at 7 p.m. at the historic Saints Peter and Paul Church in Barangay Poblacion, Makati. Admission is free. Call 8906888.

Water: Photographs by Gutsy Tuason, June 2-July 13

From imposing silhouettes of Great White sharks to gleaming strands of soft coral, nothing escapes Gutsy Tuason's lens. The award-winning underwater photographer holds his latest exhibit, Water, at the Silver Lens Gallery, Pacific Plaza, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Call 8160044.

Jewelmer Jazzfest, June 2-3

Jamie Oehler's Quartet, grand prize winner in the 2003 Montreux Jazz Festival World Saxophone Competition, will perform with Subconcept at the Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Manila and the 3rd Manila Jazz Festival at the Expo Exchange, 2/F Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati. The festival, which starts at 7 p.m., serves as kickoff for French Spring in Manila 2005. Admission is free. Call 8100266.

10th French Film Festival, June 3-26

Contemporary French movies will be screened at the Greenbelt 1 Cinemas, Ayala Center. Call 8576920 or log on to www.frenchspringinmanila.com for details.

Other Super! 24/7 events this week:

May 28, Saturday

La Visa Loca at theaters nationwide; Once on this Island at Carlos Romulo Theater; Nina at Music Museum; Dance Deluxe at Embassy; House & RnB at Temple; Juan Miguel Salvador & The Authority at Dish; DJ ScratchMark at Prince of Jaipur; Kevin Ruiz at Government; Mai Castro at Café Havana Greenbelt; Arriba at Café Havana Malate

May 29, Sunday

Reggae Mistress at Café Havana Greenbelt; Paseo Uno Jazz Trio at Paseo Uno; Carlos: Solo Exhibition at Le Souffle (The Fort); La Visa Loca at theaters nationwide; Once on this Island at Carlos Romulo Theater

May 30, Monday

I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ro at Gwellos; Mondaze at Absinth; Acoustic Night with Release Band at Temple; Tropikasya at Café Havana Greenbelt; La Visa Loca at theaters nationwide; Sitar Nights with Joey Valenciano at Bollywood; Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Route 70 at Dusit Hotel

May 31, Tuesday

DJ Scratchmark at Absinth; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Sitar Nights with Joey Valenciano at Bollywood; Spirit of 67 at Captain's Bar; Bloomfields at Dish; La Visa Loca at theaters nationwide; Mocha & Spin Art at Dusit Hotel

June 1, Wednesday

Superklasse with Johnny Verse & Mars Miranda at Embassy; Come as You Are: 90s Music at Absinth; Singles Night at Temple; Ladies Night at Prince of Jaipur; La Visa Loca at theaters nationwide; Way Back Wednesday at Bed; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt; Guarana at Café Havana Malate

June 2, Thursday

Jamie Oehler Quartet & Subconcept at Captain's Bar; RIDDM with DJ Patch at Absinth; Chocolate Milk at Government; Phuture Thursdays at Bed; Reggae Mistress at Café Havana Malate; Onda Latina at Café Havana Greenbelt; Acoustic Nights at Bollywood; Area 1 at Dish

June 3, Friday

Decadance with Boyet Almazan at Jill's; Sound and Drip at Nicotina; 80s Giraffe Night with Erick Maniquis at Absinth; Kuh Ledesma at Captain's Bar; CouchLab DJs at Embassy; Jive Fridays at Temple; Bam del Valle at Government; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt; Mai Castro y La Banda at Café Havana Malate

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Submit your schedules before Wednesday to e-mail addresses events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com or fax to 8920689.

Cock-rocking beats

From page F1

BEN
NICK
LUKE
DAVE

What was that like?

Ben: Amazing! We went there about three months ago now.

Nick: In March.

Ben: And our album hadn't been released yet but there was buzz. We had fans who got the album on import. Now that it's available worldwide, I think it's number 10 on the combined chart over there and it's really doing well. We really got a strong fan base over there.

Do you get to play gigs around London?

Nick: We just finished a 10-day tour where we sort of trained. The smallest gig we ever played was for 1,200 people and the biggest one was for 2,500.

How about small audiences?

Nick: That's how we started. We started in London, sometimes with like 30 of our mates. And then over the last year, beginning of last year, we played capacity-type venues [like the Electric Ballroom in Camden] and we're just getting bigger and better all the time.

On Led Zeppellin, Oasis, and hip-hop

I think Razorlight, KT Tunstall, Aqualung and The Coral are awesome. What's the most exciting music coming out of Britain right now?

Ben: We've been into Kasabian and Muse, though they've been around for a while now.

Nick: There's a lot of new wave coming out now, too, like The Killers, but they're from America. But the good thing is people are getting excited by live music again. You know, bands like the Kaiser Chiefs and Bloc Party.

I was listening to the Kaiser Chiefs this morning! Excellent CD. Hey, you mentioned Led Zeppellin, Eric Clapton, Aerosmith and Guns N' Roses as some of your influences. Who among the newer bands do you respect?

Nick: The four of us, we listen to a lot of music, you know. Ben and Luke are very much into their electronica. Luke's also kinda into blues music and Dave is kinda into heavy rock. We were lucky enough to meet the Foo Fighters the other day. For us they're an amazing band. And those bands you mentioned before. We went and saw Kasabian, they're great. And Razorlight, they're doing their thing and they're really good as well.

Ben: Oasis. They've got a new album out and we grew up with them.

How do you find "Lyla"?

Look — Gods!

'Once on this Island' makes you speak with this weird Jamaican accent

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

GUESS WHAT? You can catch the powerhouse cast of Actors' Actors Inc.'s "Once on this Island" for (what we hope isn't) the last time tomorrow at 8 p.m. at the RCBC Plaza.

We've seen it—it's crazy, in the positive sense. Bituin Escalante is phat (wink!) plus she does such a great job that she doesn't overshadow anyone (remember, thespians, give and take!). Kuya Bodji of Batibot fame is there, too (we're fans—you shaped our childhoods!).

The play is a big, big musical fest—which means the singing and the live music rock the house (cliche! cliche!). The sets, choreography and lights are all Super! And the thing is, you get the story.

However, the dark side of the force takes over… Jeffrey Hidalgo, the only one in the cast who is, umm, crap.

All in all though, it is a spanking ride. Y'all have to see it.

Super! talked to the gods of the play—the ones who influenced the story of "Once on this Island" from start to end.

Radha (Asaka)

People might be surprised to know that this is my first musical as an adult.

The secret to happiness is knowing there's a chance for me to redeem myself!

The soundtrack to my life would include "Talkin' 'bout My Generation," "Heaven Help," "So Into You," "Spend My Life with You," "I Wish."

If I was invisible for a day, I would walk naked on a beach.

My most embarrassing moment was when we were rehearsing two days before the opening and I entered and exited three times because I didn't know the blocking yet.

My five favorite words are love, Lord, laugh, loyalty, life.

Jett Pangan (Papa Ge)

People might be surprised to know that members of The Dawn are a bunch of comedians.

I wish when I started I was told to smile more often.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was that I wasn't there when my dad was dying.

If I was invisible for a day I would pinch pretty women's butts. Nah, I'd probably freak.

My hero is Bono.

My most embarrassing moment was when I called Jessa Zaragoza Lindsay Custodio (or was it the other way around?).

If someone would play me in my biopic it would be not John Lapuz (Hi, John!).

Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo (Erzulie)

The most important thing I've ever learned is that once you know all the answers life changes all the questions.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was that I had to perform while my grandmother was dying.

My Super! Saturday night consists of catching a movie with my husband and kids.

If I was invisible for a day, I would… Oh my… ha-ha-ha, too naughty to reveal.

My hero is my mother.

My biggest indulgence is my collection of Broadway CDs and DVDs (all versions of a particular musical).

My five favorite words are performance, music, dance, love and peace.

Michael Williams (Agwe)

The thing about fame is even if you already have it, you still need to shop.

People might be surprised to know that… I don't know, uhm, I'm a virgin?!

If I was invisible for a day… I would be nasteh!!!

When I'm gone, they'll probably say… "Now what the hell are we gonna do with all these damned cats?"

My hero is Buddha.

My most embarrassing moment was when I stripped completely naked at my chiropractor's, thinking that's what I was supposed to do.

My current state of mind is "tilt."

My five favorite words are "go out with a bang!"

Electric lights, machinery… Oh, the electricity!

'Cause life shouldn't be all work and no plays

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

SO CARRIE Underwood is the new American Idol. Now, you can all go back to your normal lives, and… watch a play or something.

But, of course, that's the last thing most of you have on your minds—you're probably thinking "When is the next American Idol going to start?" or "When is the next American Idol going to start?"

In your normal life, going to the theater and watching a play probably isn't even on your list of things to do in the near future. Which is okay (meaning understandable), for the following reasons:

1) In our country, the number of men who piss on the street is greater than the number of theater houses.

2) The plays you usually catch here are Western musicals, social reality plays written in *Florante at Laura* Filipino, or religious plays about some saint or something.

Plays in the Philippines interest only a few. It's no wonder they don't do all that well.

3) You don't even hear about most plays.

4) A lot of us see theater as an elitist pastime, like polo or something. (And who can blame us—a ticket to a play can cost from 200 to 200 million, which, in the great Unicef tradition, can give 1 billion hungry children a feast.)

But then, consider: One good play has more substance than 100 television shows combined. One play was agonized and cried over, and worked on more than you could ever imagine. The play is the king/queen of the world. With its acting, singing, dancing, interaction, suspense, drama, comedy, lights, sound, captivating sets, theater is an experience even better than sitting on a couch scratching god-knows-what.

Okay, we know that for some of you theater isn't the thing. But we're sure that there's one play out there that will touch you… one that you can relate to. (Heck, you might even write it).

Here is the point: Theater in this country has a lot of expanding to do. Yup, it has to reach out to you. But there is a gem out there that you will definitely find at the theater—and it won't hurt you to try and look for it.

ooster is a band with honest-to-goodness musical talent, personal charisma and a suitcase full of great tunes

PHOTO BY GINO DE LA PAZ

Nick: I've seen a couple interviews with Noel Gallagher and he says "Lyla" kinda shows that no matter how big you are the company still has a say [regarding the singles you release]. That's not really reflective of the album so I'm looking forward to getting my hands on the album and having a listen rather than judging by the first single.

Ben: They look like they're up for it this time. You know, get back to the old "Definitely Maybe" sound.

That was the best Oasis CD for me.

Ben: Yeah, I think so.

Nick: "(What's the Story) Morning Glory." There were some great songs in there as well. The rawness and the attitude make it stand out.

Luke said there's a "hip hop component" in your music. Who are the hip hop artists that influenced your sound?

Nick: I got Jay-Z's "Black Album" last year and I thought it was amazing. He's a great producer.

I got that as well. Have you heard of Danger Mouse?

Nick: Yeah, he mixed The Beatles' "White Album" with Jay-Z's, right?

Yeah, "The Grey Album."

Nick: I listen to a lot of Pharcyde.

Ben: Yeah, we're all big Roots fans as well. The Roots are the live band side of hip-hop.

Who else?

Nick: Dr. Dre. The first hip-hop tune I really got into was "California Love." Dr. Dre and Tupac, you know what I mean. Shows you the power of the groove, man.

'Griff rock' and 'American Idol'

The UK publication What's On called you "Maroon 5 with balls." Comment?

Nick: (laughs) I don't know. [Maroon 5 seems] to be doing pretty well at the moment. They sold 1.8 million records back in the UK. If we did that, we'd be very happy. But I think we're very different from them. They're a bit soft on the rock. We're a bit grittier.

"Griff rock"? I read that in The Guardian.

Nick: Yeah, Dave called it that. Groove-based, groove-driven rock. I think we're just a bit grittier. The fact that we've got melody, we're more melodic as far as our tunes go, maybe [that's why] they lumped us in the same category as them. Or something like, there was no one really to compare us to when we first came out. Melodic but kinda heavy. "Okay, good-looking guys with guitars. Who else is there? Okay, Maroon 5."

Ben: We're not doing hair rock. We're not doing glam. Or that Manchester kind of sound. I'm pretty awed underneath by that whole comment, we got a bit "more balls."

Nick: Yeah, we'll take that!

What do you think of reality talent searches like "American Idol" and "Pop Stars"? Is it really wise in the long run to fast track one's music career? And is that even possible?

Nick: I don't know. "American Idol" is different 'cause they just got about that Kelly Clarkson girl who seems to be sticking around. But she's not so big over in the UK but she's quite big over here and she's certainly massive in the States.

I think one thing [the show] has done is burst the bubble of pop a little bit 'cause there's no mystery about it anymore. You can see how easy it is to get into that position and so I think it opened a lot of kids' eyes to that kind of fast-tracking.

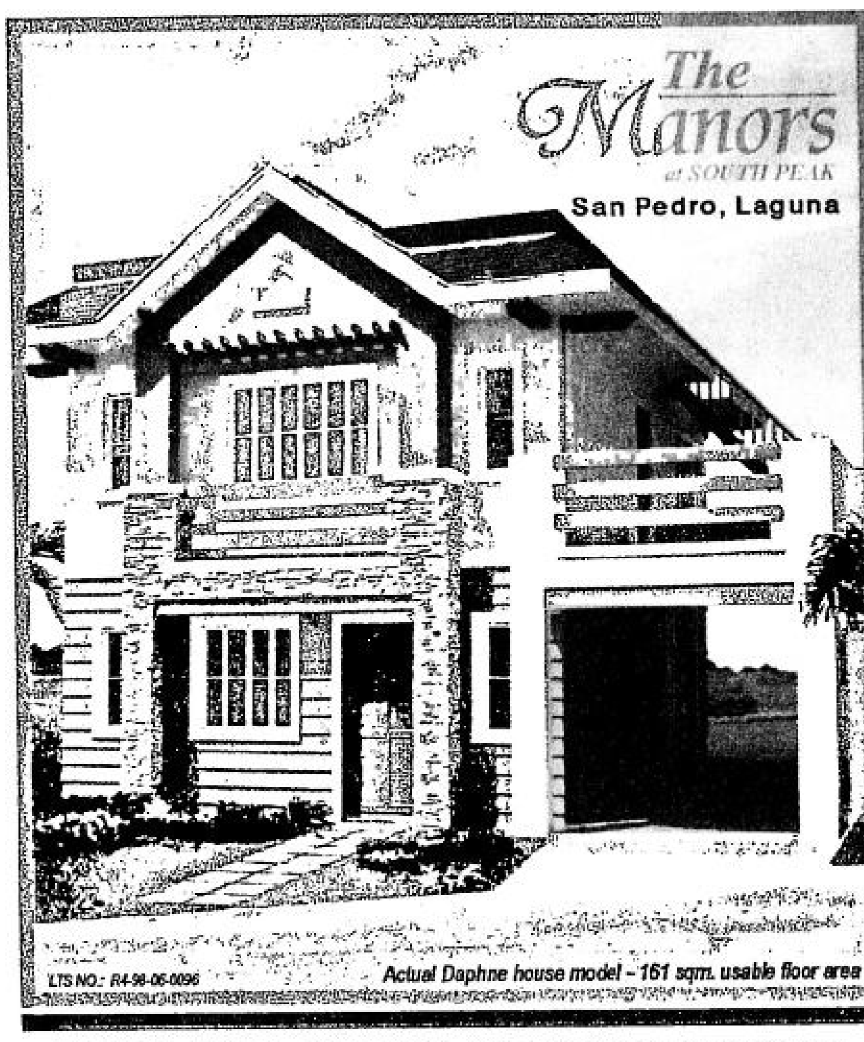
Ben: I think it's based on the individuals that they signed, or who they find. You've got to have something [substantial] underneath.

Would you consider joining such a show?

Ben: I've always been for the whole "start at the bottom, make my way up" sort of thing. When you [move up], it's part of the excitement anyway really.

Nick: You've got to earn your stripes.

Their self-titled debut is available now under Sony BMG Music Entertainment. For more info on the band, check out www.roosterofficial.com.



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MUSICAL DIRECTION - RONY FORTICH CHOREOGRAPHY - DENISA REYES DIRECTION-BART GUINGONA

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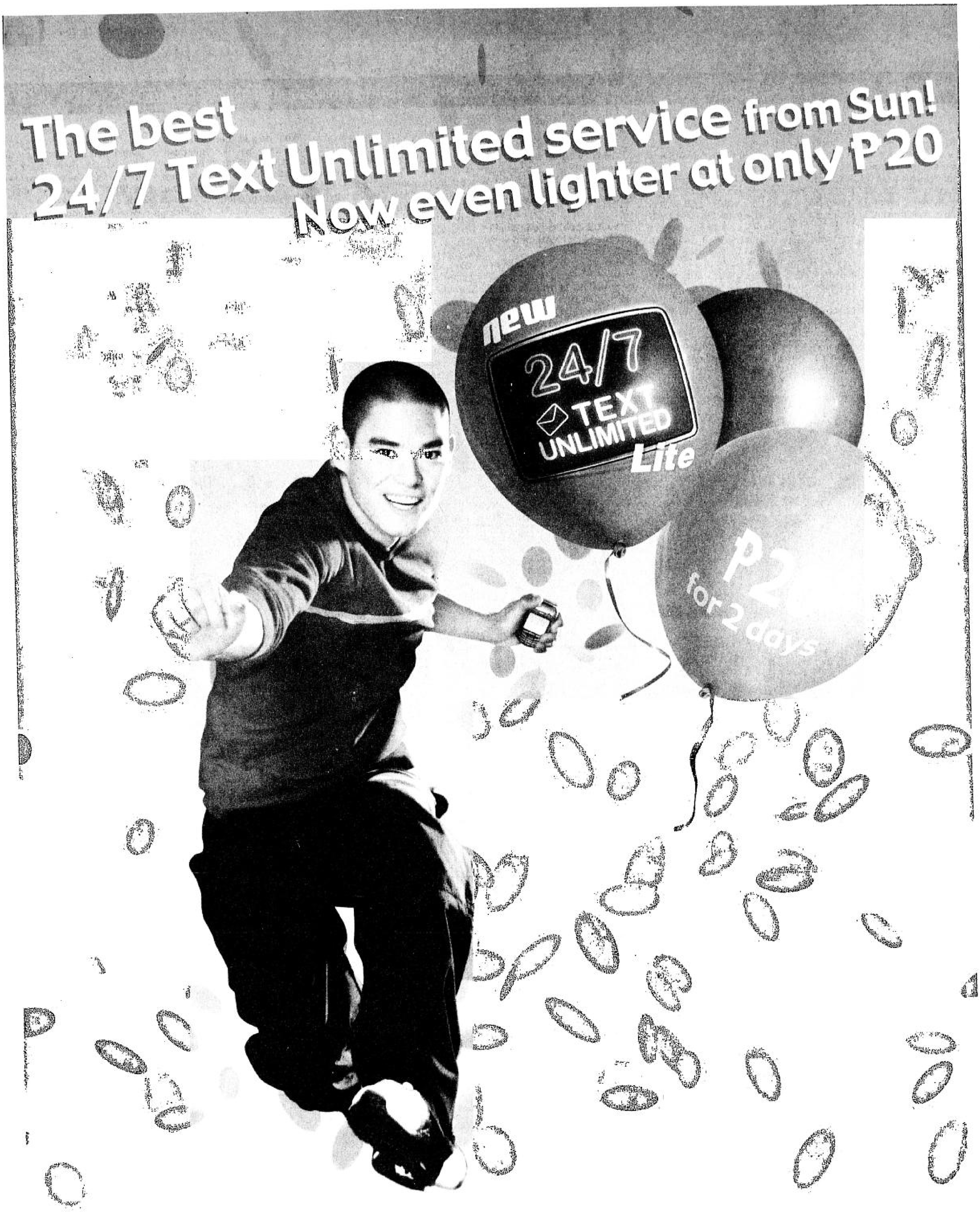

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    OR
  - Dial **220**, press **1** then enter the 14-digit number string.

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pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Lava is a many-splendored thing

MY GUESS was that there were no virgins left in Pampanga to sacrifice to the volcano gods back then. So it came to pass that the mighty Mt. Pinatubo, inundated by an upset belly, angrily spewed out its searing guts for nine hours, taking the lives of hundreds, displacing thousands, and leaving one lonely desert of ash. Yep, Pinatubo was a real ash hole.

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OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

That was 14 years ago. Today, who would have thought that what was once a dreary, barren land would come back to life, with new communities dusting off the past and rising from the proverbial ashes?

Pinatubo has even become a favored destination for eco-adventure tourism, with both locals and foreigners trekking through expansive valleys to go up the once-feared volcano.

And after comin' down the mountains, what better way to wash off the caked mud with… even more mud? Mudslinging may not be all that unusual in this country but this time, it's actually good for you, especially at the newly-opened Mt. Pinatubo Wellness Spa at the foot of the volcano in Capas, Tarlac. Bath… massage… volcano? You bet!

Mudventure race

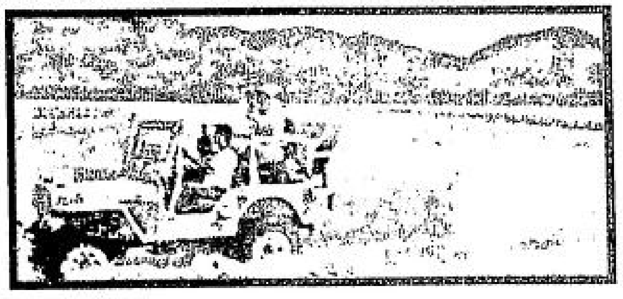
The mudventure began with a rip-roaring 4x4 road trip through Crow Valley, an awesome site with the view of jagged mountain ranges stabbing the sandy plains. The ride was a helluva rush, as we drove through sand, rocky terrain and snaking rivulets while ensconced in ghostly plumes. (I made a mental note to e-mail Jerry Bruckheimer and Phil Keoghan to tell them that this would be a good Fast Forward challenge for the hundredth season of The Amazing Race.)

At the foothills, we took a dip at the natural "hot" springs—which were really more like *boiling* . I should know because in my haste to take a dip to de-frizz my new *buhaghag* hairdo, I stepped into the water and yelled out a bunch of expletives because I thought my feet had melted in lava.

In the neighboring pools, I espied a little snack: eggs being boiled naturally in the clear hot waters. Yum.

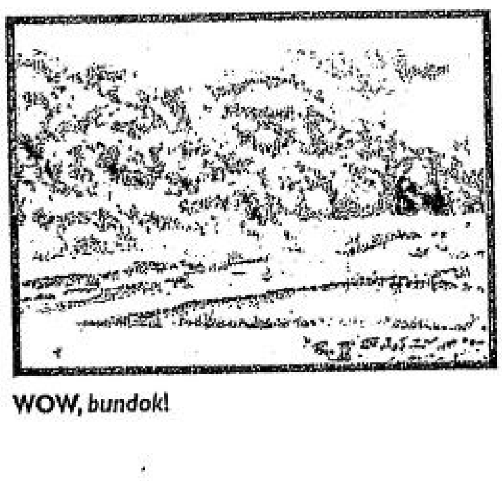
A drive to the other side of the valley brought us to the serene Tambo Lake, where some locals

LAVA/ G3



PARA, boss!

BOILING by the hot springs



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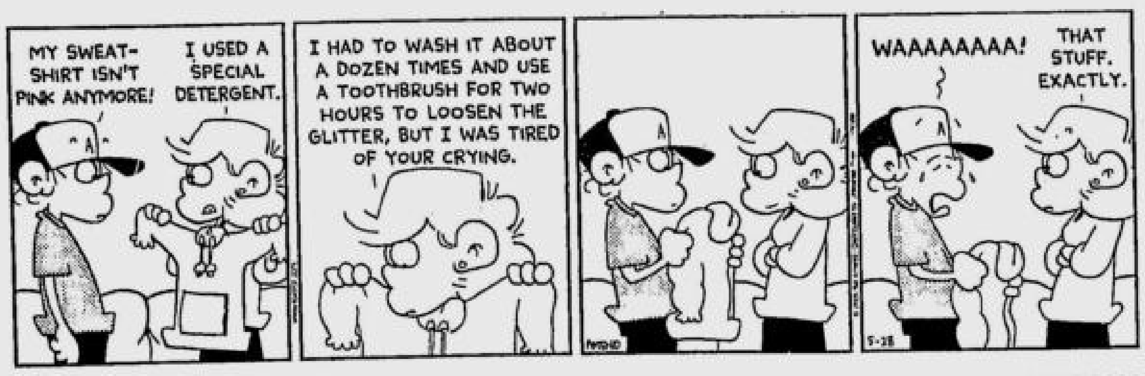
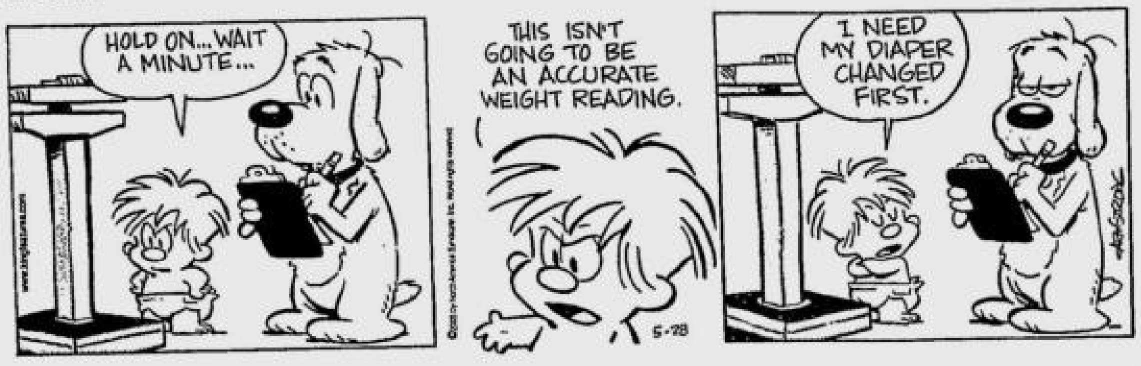
BY BILL AMEND


MY SWEATSHIRT ISN'T PINK ANYMORE!
I USED A SPECIAL DETERGENT.
I HAD TO WASH IT ABOUT A DOZEN TIMES AND USE A TOOTHBRUSH FOR TWO HOURS TO LOOSEN THE GLITTER, BUT I WAS TIRED OF YOUR CRYING.
WAAAAAAAA!
THAT STUFF. EXACTLY.
5-28

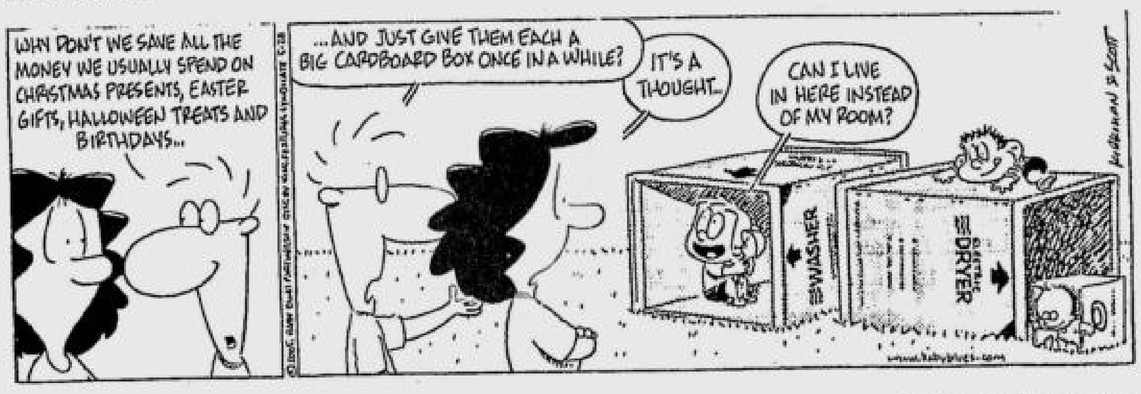
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


HOLD ON... WAIT A MINUTE...
THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE AN ACCURATE WEIGHT READING.
I NEED MY DIAPER CHANGED FIRST.
5-28

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHY DON'T WE SAVE ALL THE MONEY WE USUALLY SPEND ON CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, EASTER GIFTS, HALLOWEEN TREATS AND BIRTHDAYS...
...AND JUST GIVE THEM EACH A BIG CARDBOARD BOX ONCE IN A WHILE?
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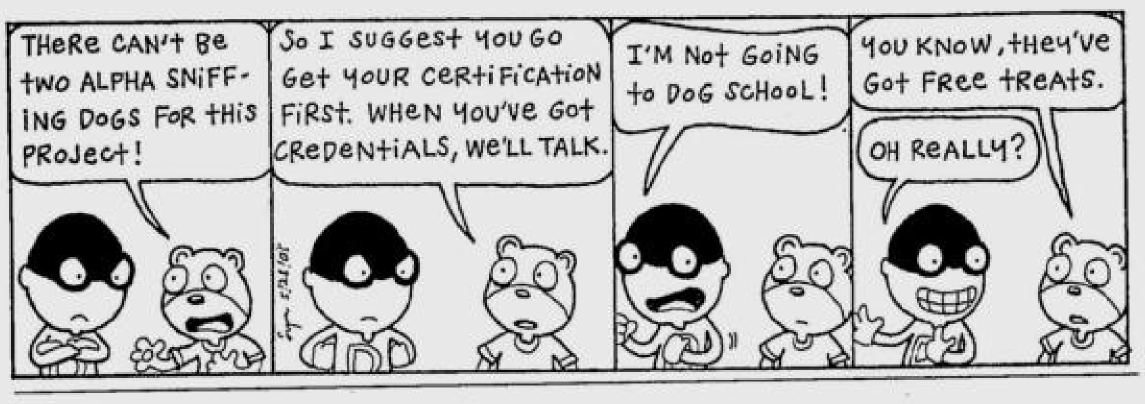
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THERE CAN'T BE TWO ALPHA SNIFFING DOGS FOR THIS PROJECT!
SO I SUGGEST YOU GO GET YOUR CERTIFICATION FIRST. WHEN YOU'VE GOT CREDENTIALS, WE'LL TALK.
I'M NOT GOING TO DOG SCHOOL!
YOU KNOW, THEY'VE GOT FREE TREATS.
OH REALLY?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're extremely bright, clever and creative. You're an idea person. You love to begin new things to test out your ideas, which are often elegant in their simplicity. You need a lot of freedom of action both at work and in your relationships. Work hard this year for rewards in 2006.
Birthdate of: Rudy Giuliani, politician; Gladys Knight, singer; Kylie Minogue, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Expect to have a lot of group discussions and conversations with others in the next four to six weeks. It's as if the electricity were suddenly turned on in your mind!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You'll be giving more thought in the immediate future to whatever it is you value in life. In fact, you'll want to define your sense of values. (If you don't know what matters, how do you know what to reach for?)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today Mercury moves into your sign. Mercury is your ruler. This means your mind will be very busy, jumping from subject to subject for the next few weeks.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel a bit secretive now. There's something you're holding back. The month ahead is an excellent time to do research by yourself.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Discuss your goals and dreams for the future with others now and the next few weeks. Examine your ideals. Feedback from others will be helpful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): The next few weeks are good times to talk to bosses and superiors. It's also a good time to undertake new studies that can promote your career.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Any kind of study, travel or adventure that broadens your experience of the world will delight you now and in the next few weeks. You want to know more about life!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Expect to be working on negotiations about finances and shared property in the immediate future. You have to sort things out here. Figure out who owns what.

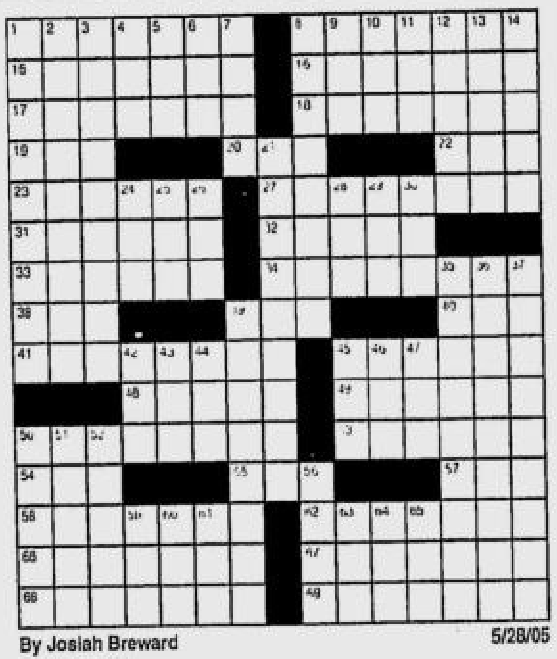
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Today Mercury moves opposite your sign. This means that the next few weeks are the perfect time to clarify and explain important issues with others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're definitely in the mood for detailed mental work now. This feeling will last for about six weeks. (This means you can get a tremendous amount done!)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You feel lighthearted and playful. You might even want to play games or do puzzles to entertain yourself. (You don't have to justify what you do with a practical reason.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Communications with parents will assume a far greater importance in the next few weeks. Similarly, family discussions and work with family businesses are particularly significant.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

5/28/05

ACROSS

1 Almsgiving
8 Get ready
15 Romberg operetta
16 Decorations of office
17 Yet to be used
18 Rare breeds
19 Notice
20 Christian letters
22 Sign of victory
23 Church songbook
27 Artists' studios
31 Costello's straight man
32 Having radial stripes
33 Hit hard
34 Willing to follow advice
38 Spike or Pinky
39 Recipe amt.
40 Bled in the wash
41 Indispensable qualities
45 Voicing displeasure
48 French river
49 Play the wrong suit
50 "Mr. Mom" star
53 Cunning
54 Orinoco feeder
55 Neighbor of Syr.
57 Flagged vehicle
58 Unit of charge
62 Resentment
66 Of summer
67 Police car
68 Having a will
69 Most caring

DOWN

1 Like a very weak opponent
2 Pollination providers
3 Gathers together
4 Puff Daddy's style
5 __-de-France
6 Solder component
7 Abominable snowman
8 Apply postage beforehand
9 Critic Reed
10 Teamwork disrupter
11 Light touch
12 __ and well
13 Kitchen gadget
14 Slackens
21 Pestering people
24 Ready alternative?
25 Put on the feedbag
26 Brush Inc.
28 Needle hole
29 Author Deighton
30 President McKinley's wife
35 Attache
36 Various tongues
37 Mr. Humperdinck
39 Horrendous
42 Teacher of Samuel
43 Egg concoction
44 Cloak-and-dagger grp.
45 Half a bikini
46 "__ the fields we go..."
47 Que. neighbor
50 Silent, in music
51 Irregularly notched
52 Overwhelming defeats
56 Crease
59 Set afire
60 Latin eggs
61 Gym surface
63 Med. procedure
64 Dinner roll
65 Exorcise

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	R	I	P	■	A	S	I	D	E	■	A	S	H
P	A	B	L	O	■	R	U	L	E	D	■	B	A	A
F	R	I	L	L	■	D	I	A	N	E	L	A	D	D
■	■	■	E	L	I	O	T	■	U	N	A	B	L	E
J	U	D	G	E	D	R	E	D	D	■	P	A	Y	S
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D	I	A	L	■	H	D	T	V	■	Y	E	A	H	S
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5/28/05

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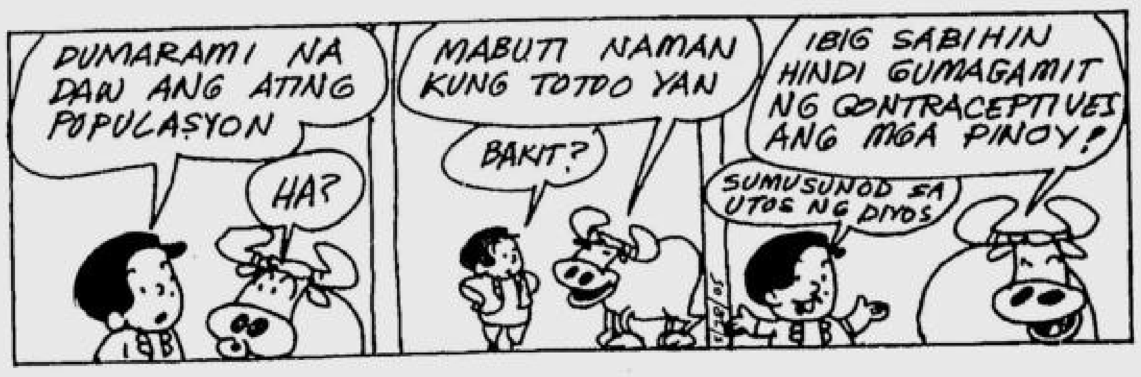
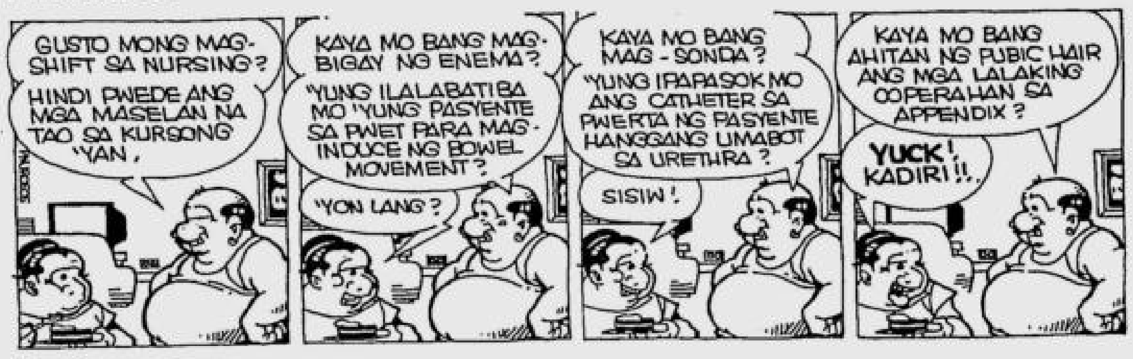
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DUMARAMI NA DAW ANG ATING POPULASYON
HA?
MABUTI NAMAN KUNG TOTOO YAN
BAKIT?
IBIG SABIHIN HINDI GUMAGAMIT NG CONTRACEPTIVES ANG MGA PINOY!
SUMUSUNOD SA UTOS NG DIYOS

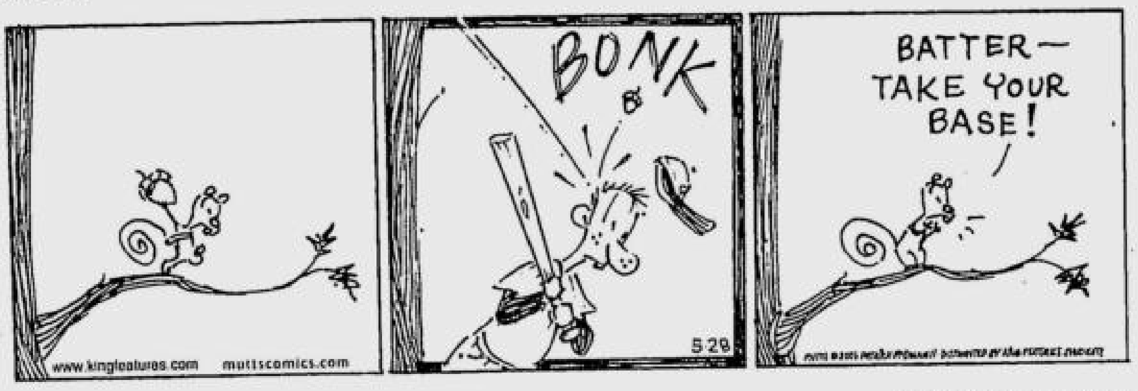
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


GUSTO MONG MAG-SHIFT SA NURSING?
HINDI PWEDE ANG MGA MASELAN NA TAO SA KURSONG 'YAN.
KAYA MO BANG MAG-BIGAY NG ENEMA?
'YUNG ILALABATIBA MO 'YUNG PASYENTE SA PWET PARA MAG-INDUCE NG BOWEL MOVEMENT?
'YON LANG?
KAYA MO BANG MAG-SONDA?
'YUNG IPAPASOK MO ANG CATHETER SA PWERTA NG PASYENTE HANGGANG UMABOT SA URETHRA?
SISIW!
KAYA MO BANG AHITAN NG PUBIC HAIR ANG MGA LALAKING OOPERAHAN SA APPENDIX?
YUCK! KADIRI!!

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BONK
BATTER— TAKE YOUR BASE!
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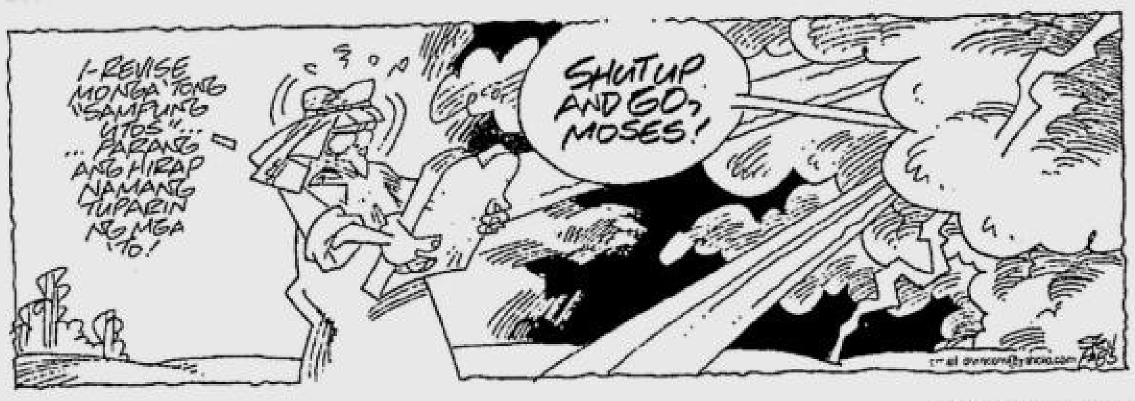
5-28

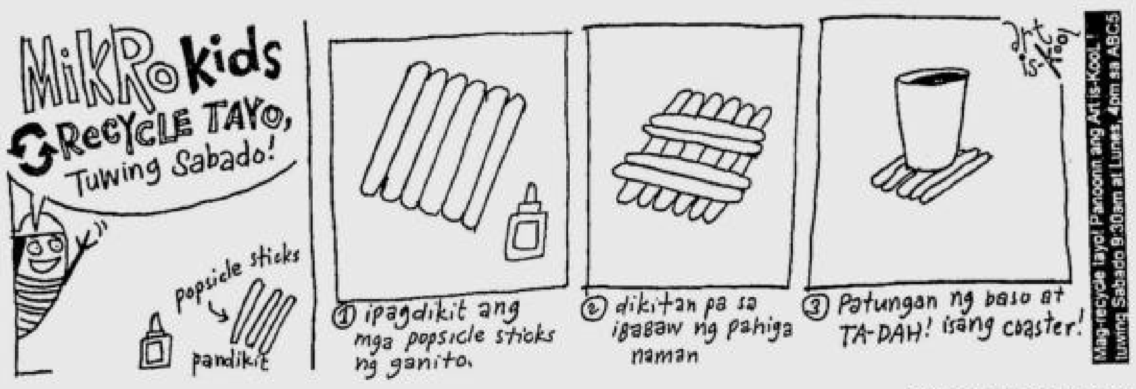
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I-REVISE MO NGA 'TONG "SAMPUNG UTOS"... PARANG ANG HIRAP NAMANG TUPARIN NG MGA 'TO!
SHUT UP AND GO, MOSES!

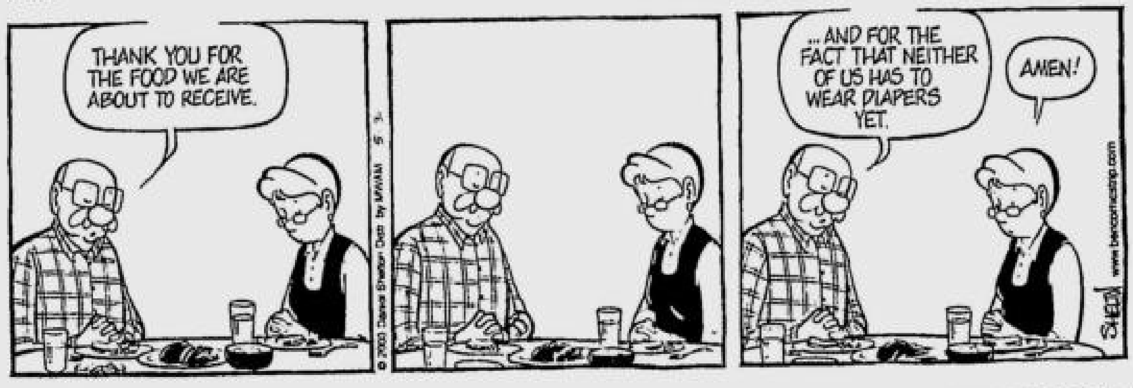
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo Kids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
popsicle sticks
pandikit
① ipagdikit ang mga popsicle sticks ng ganito.
② dikitan pa sa ibabaw ng pahiga naman
③ Patungan ng baso at TA-DAH! isang coaster!
Art is Kool
Mag-recycle tayo! Panoorin ang Art is-Kool ! tuwing Sabado 9:30am at Lunes, 4pm sa ABC5

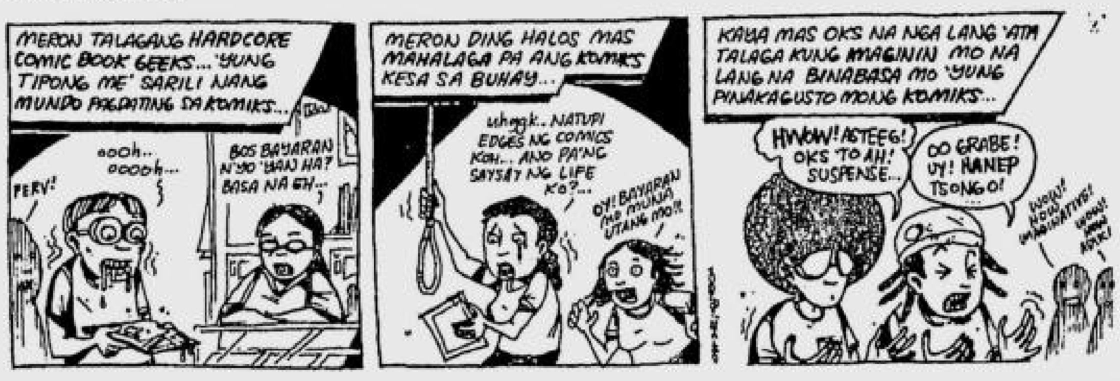
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD WE ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE.
...AND FOR THE FACT THAT NEITHER OF US HAS TO WEAR DIAPERS YET.
AMEN!
www.bencomicstrip.com

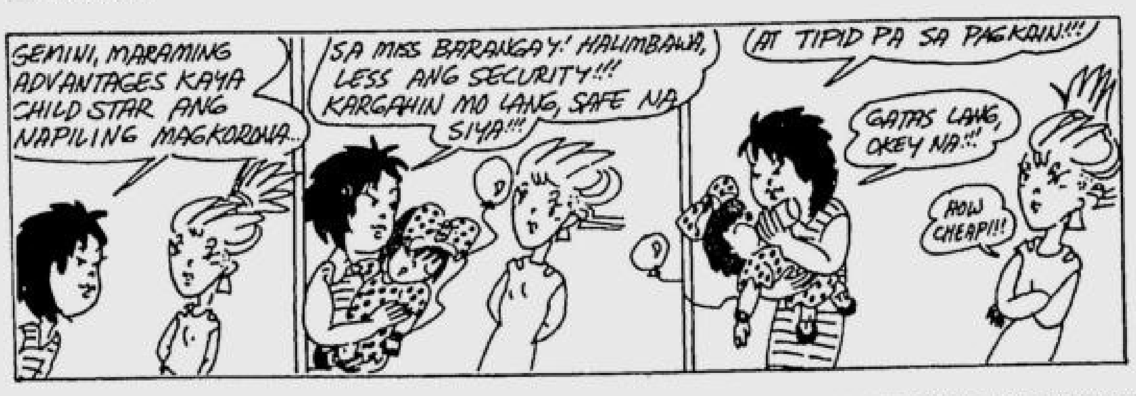
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


MERON TALAGANG HARDCORE COMIC BOOK GEEKS... 'YUNG TIPONG ME' SARILI NANG MUNDO PAGDATING SA KOMIKS...
PERV!
oooh.. ooooh...
BOS BAYARAN N'YO 'BAN HA? BASA NA EH...
MERON DING HALOS MAS MAHALAGA PA ANG KOMIKS KESA SA BUHAY...
uhggk.. NATUPI EDGES NG COMICS KOH... ANO PA'NG SAYSAY NG LIFE KO?...
OY! BAYARAN MO MUNA UTANG MO!!
KAYA MAS OKS NA NGA LANG 'ATA TALAGA KUNG MAGININ MO NA LANG NA BINABASA MO 'YUNG PINAKAGUSTO MONG KOMIKS...
HWOW! ASTEEG! OKS 'TO AH! SUSPENSE...
OO GRABE! UY! HANEP TSONGO!

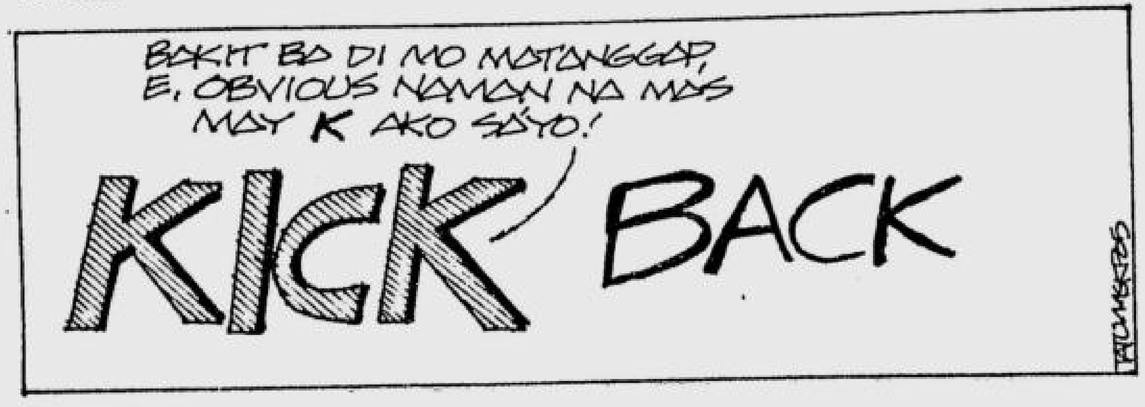
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


GEMINI, MARAMING ADVANTAGES KAYA CHILD STAR ANG NAPILING MAGKORONA...
SA MISS BARANGAY! HALIMBAWA, LESS ANG SECURITY!!! KARGAHIN MO LANG, SAFE NA SIYA!!!
(AT TIPID PA SA PAGKAIN!!!)
GATAS LANG, OKEY NA!!!
HOW CHEAP!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT BA DI MO MATANGGAP, E, OBVIOUS NAMAN NA MAS MAY K AKO SAYO!
KICK BACK
TATUM&PAPU

Lava is a many-splendored thing

From page G1

were fishing and gathering snails for dinner. The lake is currently being developed into a recreational water sports resort by Korean investors. Very soon, Sandara's peeps will be building resthouses around the lake and bringing in jet skis and boats. Props to our Far East Asian neighbors for keeping the faith in our little archipelago!

Sandy shower

As we headed back to the Pinatubo Wellness Spa, you could just imagine how driving through lahar country had turned me into a human *polvoron*, and still with *buhaghag* hair that would've chipped Ricky Reyes' manicure.

The Spa was a welcome respite, as cleaning up was next on my agenda. First, I had to take what they called a "sandy shower." Eh? More sand? Indeed, as I submerged myself in a bed of volcanic ash, the first of its kind in the country. The sand, taken from Pinatubo, is sifted and mixed with volcanic salt, which is good for the skin and body because it heals wounds and eases arthritic pains.

A special sulfur facial mud pack, a mixture of liquid sulfur and water, was then applied. The sulfuric mask has an anti-microbial effect and tightens pores for healthier and clearer skin (and it doesn't stink!).

A shower, a dip in the hot outdoor stone baths and I was ready for my massAaaahge that took me to la-la-lava land for a glorious hour. It should be noted that the Pinatubo Spa gave jobs to over a hundred residents of nearby Barangay Sta. Juliana, who were professionally trained like eager young Padawans. My personal *masahista* in fact shared that she was trained for months in the ways of the Shiatsu. From the way my body wonderfully felt like jello afterwards, I could vouch that the Force was truly strong in her!

Spa-ctacular

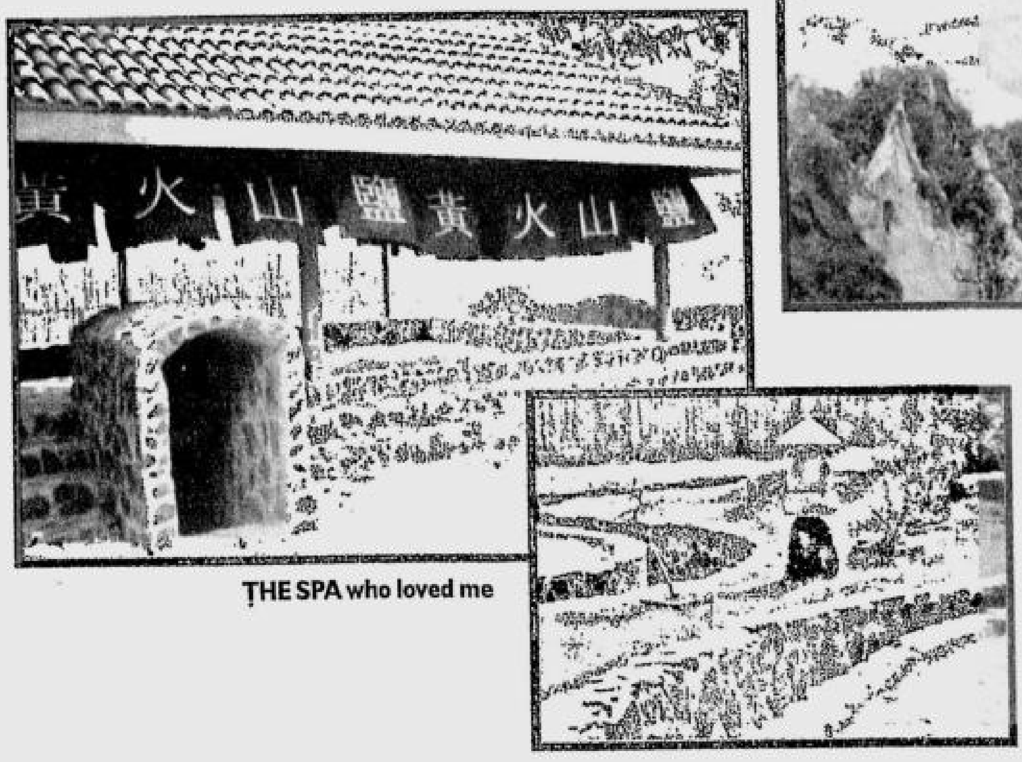
The Pinatubo Wellness Spa can accommodate up to 200 guests, and offers Shiatsu therapeutic healing therapy, outdoor massage, hot baths, a sulfuric volcano ash spa and sulfur foot spa (everyone, say it with me: sulfur, so good!). Plus, there's a big, open-air restaurant that serves traditional Pinoy and Korean food.

The spa is a joint venture of two entrepreneurs from the Philippines-Korea Travel Agency Association, Patton Kim and Chris Park. Its launch is in line with the Department of Tourism's campaign to develop and promote the Philippines as a growing health and wellness tourism destination in Asia. In fact, the Philippines participated in the International Tourismus Börse last March in Berlin, and the International Spa Conference last May in Singapore. Representing the country were the likes of the world-class Mandala Spa in Boracay and The Farm at San Benito in Batangas.

Tourism Secretary Ace Durano said the Pinatubo Spa "demonstrated the power of tourism… what was once a deserted land was now a vibrant economy."

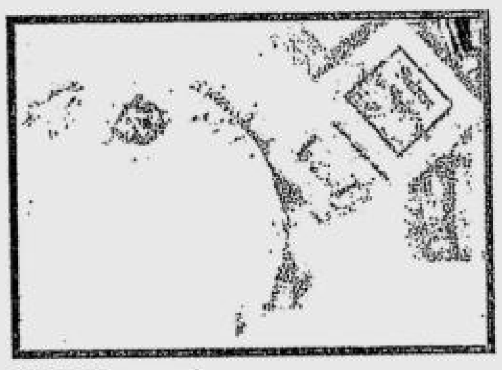
And vibrant it is—taking in the view of the majestic mountainside, who could ever doubt the power of healing in bringing forth new life?

Got you curious? For more info, contact the DOT, City of San Fernando, Pampanga at (63 45) 961-2665/2612 or email: dot3@pldtdsl.net or surf www.luzoncentral.com.ph.

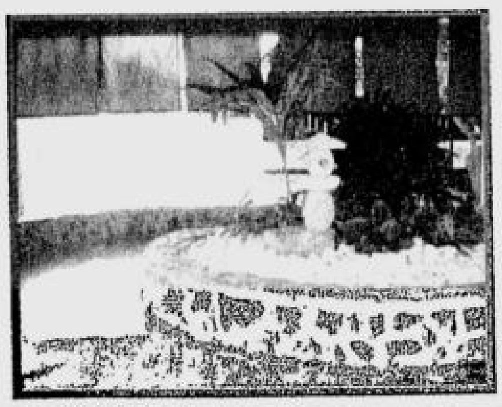


THE SPA who loved me

ENTER SANDMEN. Buried alive in the volcanic sand bath



SULFUR, so good



BATHMAN begins

4x4 play

WOW, *itlog*! Tourism Secretary Ace Durano snacks on the natural hard-boiled treats.

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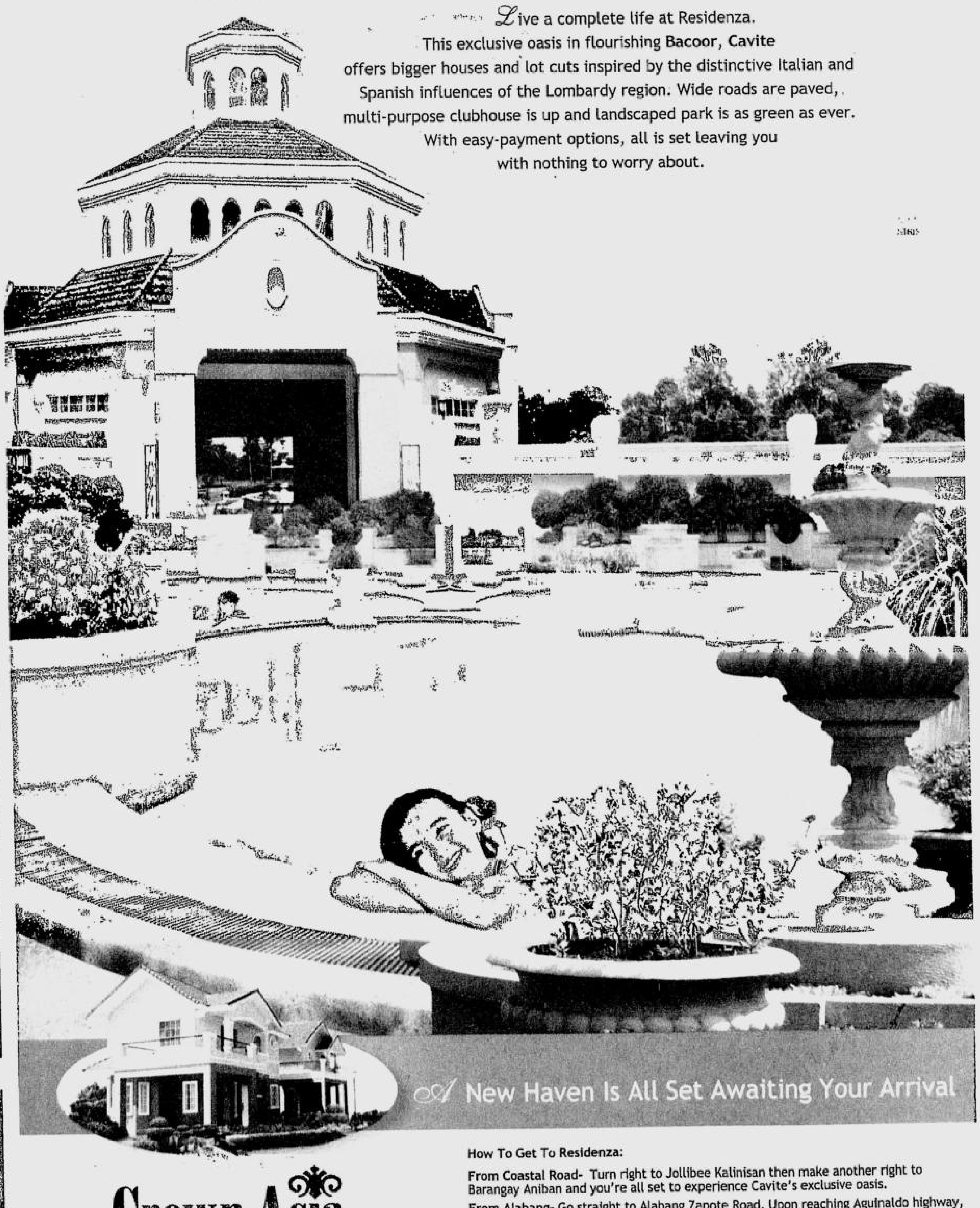

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SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2005 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 2, NUMBER 12

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 'Padme' and 'Amidala' reunite — Page 3
- Papasok na si Bunso
- Creative Baon Ideas — Page 4
- Schoolebratin! — Page 6
- Comics — Page 7
- Kids' Choice Awards — Page 8

Bahay-bahayan? Bahay Bayanihan!

By Eline Santos

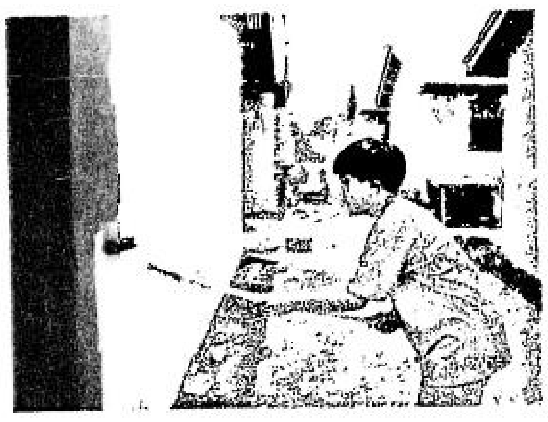
AMAZING kids are on the move to build houses for the less fortunate.

Gawad Kalinga 777, a project started by Couples for Christ, aims to build 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in seven years. GK 777 already boasts of having 500 sites in 200 towns, thanks to multiple partnerships with corporations, civic organizations, NGOs, schools, and individual volunteers—including terrific kids!

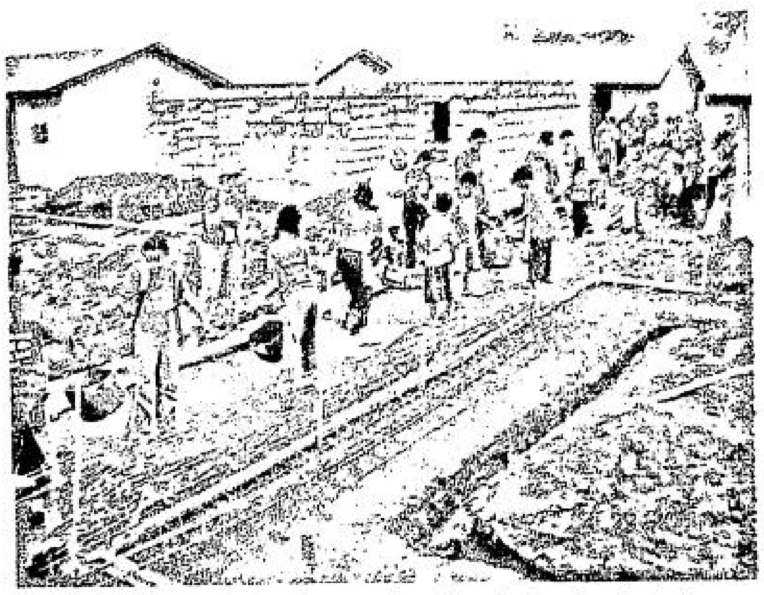
Tony Meloto, the director of Gawad Kalinga (GK), says the country's hope lies with the young.

"(When) You rebuild the country, it's a process of changing a whole generation (thus) reversing the downward spiral towards poverty," says Tito Tony.

The next generation of nation builders are already on their way. Kids for Christ, the young counterpart of the Catholic community Couples for Christ, has committed to building 10 GK villages in two years! In honor of the young builders, these sites are designated as Kids Villages.



A HELPFUL painter brightens up people's lives with color.



YOUNG volunteers form a bucket brigade to bring materials into a GK village.

GROUNDBREAKING ceremonies are held at the first Kids Village site in San Isidro, Nueva Ecija.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF COUPLES FOR CHRIST

Breaking ground

KFC broke ground in San Isidro, Nueva Ecija for the first Kids Village site last April 29. About 30 kids went to help, including Therese Reyes, an incoming fifth-grader in South Merville School, Parañaque.

Therese says she painted some houses and carried buckets of sand for a day.

"*Masaya*," she smiles shyly. "I didn't get tired because I was helping kids and people without houses."

Another helpful builder is Cholo Gamogamo, 12. When he was a fifth-grader, Cholo would spend weekends at a site in Antipolo to help paint houses and clear out dirt. Now an incoming high school freshman at Nuestra Señora de Aransazu Parochial School in San Mateo Rizal, he continues to help build homes for others by collecting coins through the Batang Bayani cans, a fund-raising campaign for GK.

While Cholo only gets enough money for transportation (he brings his own *baon*), whatever extra money he does get, goes into the can. He asks his parents for their spare change, not for himself, but to speed up his collection.

"I have plenty of toys. I have the things I need," he says.

KFC officially launched the Batang Bayani cans in February.

Joyce Camille Caling, 11, filled up one can last March by putting in a big chunk of her allowance each day. John Emmanuel Tan, 12, has filled up two cans.

HAVING lived in a GK village, these kids share their experience of light (the sun) shining through the darkness (night sky) with a symbolic house they painted during the IKV camp in Pampanga. ELINE SANTOS

Rainbow Village

The Batang Bayani fund-raising program and the goal to build 10 Kids Villages were introduced during the International Kids Village, a three-day camp.

In this camp, 5,000 KFC members gathered together for fun, games, and a flurry of activities revolving around a theme. The theme this year was "Batang Bayani, Kids in Nation Building."

Bahay-bahayan?/ p. 7

PEN PALS FOR MOTHER EARTH

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THEY segregate garbage, collect plastic bottles for recycling, and have recently added e-mail to their arsenal of environmental weapons.

Members of the Agents of New Generation Environment Leaders and Saviors (Angels), a school-based environmental club in Pembo Elementary School in Makati City, are taking part in the World Environment Day 2005 celebrations through the International Pen Pal Program.

Students communicate with their new "pen pals" from San Francisco, USA and share their thoughts about the environment.

"We were really excited to be in school even during the summer because of this International Pen Pal Program," 11-year-old Catherine Knight said, grinning.

The incoming Grade 6 student explained that from April 21 to June 2, the group would meet twice a week to write entries in their workbook. Afterwards, they would take turns e-mailing their US counterpart.

Patricia Joy Canapi, 9, added that they gather in the school's science centrum to discuss the topics in the journal. They also talk about how to answer the special journal's questions.

"After the discussion, we would all go to the computer room to surf the Internet and visit recommended websites," said Patricia, an incoming fifth-grade student.

PEMBO Elementary School Angels ERIK ARAZAS

One of the group's advisers, Ms Grace Fernandez, explained that through this online interaction, the children would learn more about the life and environment of their American counterparts.

"By visiting the websites recommended by the journal, the children would learn how similar or different San Francisco is from Makati," Ms Fernandez said.

A student would then be appointed to e-mail their counterpart class in the US about the week's topic.

"We learn a lot from their replies, especially on how cleaner their surroundings are compared to ours," Catherine said.

Catherine shared that they learned that the city of San Francisco has 10 clean rivers, a result of their continued campaigns against water pollution.

Pen pals/ p. 3

Mom's super helpers

By Eline Santos

EVER helped your mom give birth?

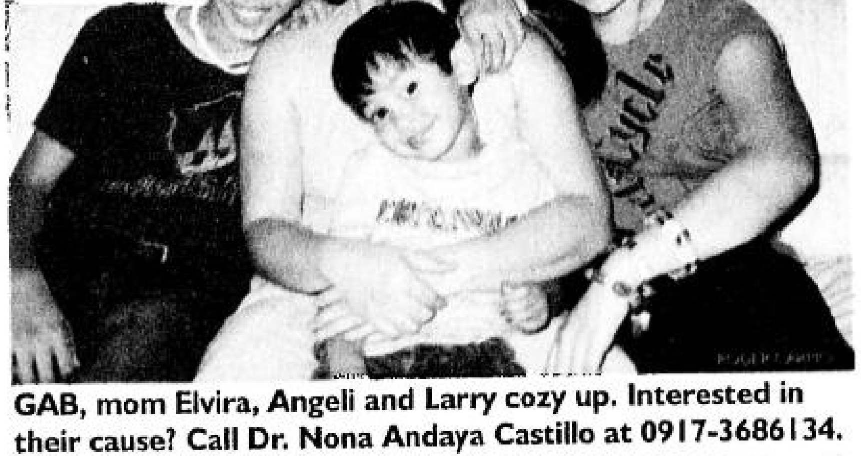
The Esguerra siblings, Angeli, 15, and Gabriel, 13, were actively involved in taking care of their youngest brother, Larry, even before he was born. To learn how to care for babies, they spent the summer of 2001 as volunteers at Arugaan, a day care center in Quezon City. They learned things like how to massage babies, the benefits of breastfeeding, and how it is done properly. It was the first time that kids participated in this kind of a program.

In Arugaan, they helped care for toddlers and babies. "Meeting the kids was fun so we actually looked forward to it," recalls Angeli, an incoming high school junior in Assumption College, Makati. "At an early age, I already knew how to take care of younger kids."

This is why they felt ready to be by their mother's side at the momentous point when their mom, Elvira, was giving birth.

Seeing "a whole river of blood there" was a bit freaky but Angeli says, "It was more of exciting actually."

Mom's/ p. 6



GAB, mom Elvira, Angeli and Larry cozy up. Interested in their cause? Call Dr. Nona Andaya Castillo at 0917-3686134.

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2004 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee

Kid Power

"I'M just a kid."

Have you ever said those words to yourself? That word "just" is not justified at all because kid power rocks!

Kid power moves buckets of sand across a village to shelter families that used to live in slums. Kid power moves brushes across blank walls to bring color into people's lives.

Kid power reaches across the globe to learn new things to help better save the environment.

Kid power can nurture the new baby brother or sister in your family.

The celebrities you like gain more clout precisely because you chose them. The celebrities you dislike fade away from the limelight.

When you smile, it lights up a room like nothing else. Your laughter refreshes tired grownups. Your hug is a magic antidote to someone sad.

You may not know it, but your Mom and Dad probably have all the wise words and kind deeds you've done tucked away in their heart.

So the next time you find yourself thinking, "I'm just a kid," take out the four-letter word. You've got immense power and you don't have to be anyone else but yourself to use it.

JOURNAL PAGES

SUMMER NA NAMAN!

[illegible]

By Dianne Arianne Villaflor
Saint Vincent School
Quezon City

FOR me, summer time is the best! One can do many things without worrying about assignments, projects and tests!

Let me tell you about the things we did one summer.

The first thing I did was fix up the garden with my sister Abby. It seemed like there was so much to be done, and I didn't want to see earthworms, baby snakes and other creatures that crept in the soil. We decided to do it anyway.

First, we gathered all the rocks and put them in a sack. Then, we leveled the soil using a rake and a trowel. After that, we put in some fertilizer. The following day, we bought different flowers and plants. We handcarried these all the way to our house. Then, we made a small pathway using different rocks. From there, you can look at all the plants and flowers along the sides. We were so pleased when we were finished because it turned into a pleasant-looking garden.

During the Holy Week, we went to Intramuros, to visit some churches like the Manila Cathedral and San Agustin Church. My *balikbayan* Uncle Leo took pictures and shot video. My Aunt Bet took us to the museum of San Agustin Church where my Uncle Leo bought rosaries for himself and my aunt as souvenirs. It was my first time to visit the museum, so I felt happy.

After the Holy Week, we went to our province to harvest mangoes. I was thrilled to pick big ones from a tree. We went home with two huge baskets. They were so heavy!

Some weeks later, we went to Island Cove for an overnight stay. During the ride, I was filled with excitement. I kept thinking about the place, which is why I woke up very early that morning.

When we reached Island Cove, we decided to eat lunch at the Fisherman's Grill. The long trip made me very hungry. While waiting for the food, we took some pictures around the fisherman's village.

We rested for a while at the hotel. That night, we went swimming. At first, I hesitated because I thought that the water was cold, but it was really warm, So I decided to swim in the kiddie pool. It was drizzling and I enjoyed it! We all soaked ourselves in a jacuzzi beside the pool.

The next day, we visited a crocodile farm. On the way to the crocodiles, I saw a big yellow snake. I got goosebumps because I really don't like reptiles. When we reached the crocodiles, I couldn't look at them. It's a good thing that they stay in a small manmade island where they cannot harm tourists like me.

I preferred the monkey farm on the opposite side. I saw the monkeys eat corn, carrots and bananas. A mother monkey carried her baby in her pocket. It was the cutest sight! Some monkeys fought each other. Other monkeys took out the lice of their monkey friends. It was fun seeing an entire monkey family.

We left the farm and proceeded to a zoo. I saw other animals like birds, goats, sheep, deer, ostriches, and a big tiger cub named Jose. He was the most lovable of all because I could pet him from outside the cage. He seemed so lonely that rainy day until we came.

Before we headed home, we went to the souvenir shop to buy some key chains. We took pictures as a remembrance of our enjoyable stay.

When we got home, we were tired but happy. We took a nap and later heard Mass to thank God for everything.

That was the end of my busy but fun summer. It was a good and happy summer vacation. How about you? Did you enjoy your summer? I hope you did!

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

Kite Tips and Tricks

THIS is to comment on your article entitled "I Believe I can Fly," dated April 30, 2005.

Sometime last week, while doing my regular physical workout at the Amoranto Sports Complex, I noticed a family whose father was preparing to fly a kite.

After the kite had been tied and readied, they tried to fly it but unfortunately it did not. The kite did not even reach 5 feet from the ground. I noticed it was tied wrongly.

My 17-year-old son still remembers how we made and flew kites at the Folk Arts Theater grounds when he was six years old. He recalls it as one of the happiest times in his life.

Kite flying is an art. It's so fulfilling to make it airborne. I think the flight will be better with these adjustments:

First, the tail of the kite should be lighter than the body. Newspapers are heavy and you used too much of it. It's more challenging to fly a tail-less kite.

Secondly, steps 7 and 8 are definitely a mistake. A "squala" or a squared fashioned string should be tied at the other side of the kite, not the side where you can see the spine. This way, the wind will blow on the kite's face while the spine (crossbone) supports it.

Third, the squared string end must be tied at the cross joint of the "bone," and the other end about half an inch from the bottom of the main spine. You'll have to puncture a small hole through the paper to insert the string. The string must look like the number 7, if you hold it from the kite's top and the kite's string.

I hope this will make our kite flying more fulfilling.

Jobot Velasco
Father, 42.

Dear Mr. Velasco,
Thank you for your suggestions! Hopefully, everyone will enjoy their kites better with these helpful tips.
—The Editor

You can reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph
Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and phone number.
Hope to hear from you soon!

WORLD SCOPE

London, England
Beslan, Russia
Wadowice, Poland
Tokyo, Japan
Oregon, USA
Hebron, Israel

Darth Vader lives!

ACTORS portraying Darth Vader and Storm Troopers march to the UK premiere of the Star Wars film, "Revenge of the Sith," in London's Leicester Square. Fans waited for hours in the pouring rain to catch a glimpse of the stars arriving for the premiere. *Reuters*

Call for Freedom

A PALESTINIAN girl displays a copy of the Koran during a rally calling for the release of all Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails. *Reuters*

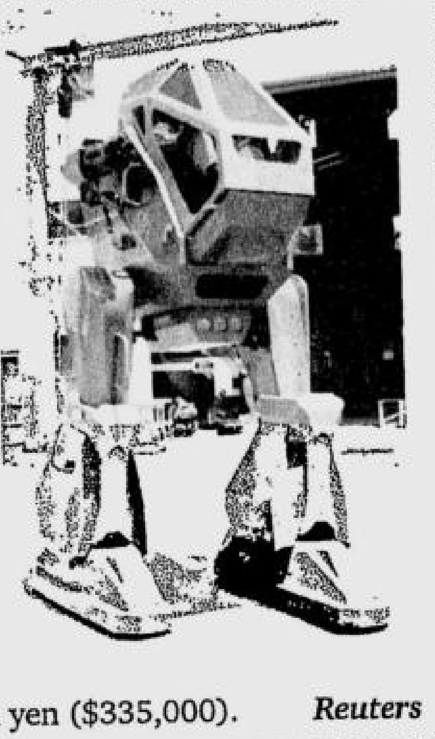
Pope's birth anniversary

YOUNG boys light candles during a special evening concert in Wadowice, Poland, hometown of the late Pope John Paul II. The event took place one day ahead of celebrations marking the 85th birthday of the late pontiff. *AP*

Padme and Leia reunited!

AURORA Olayos, 6, dressed as Queen Amidala, shares a laugh with sister Ariel, 9, dressed as Princess Leia, as they sit outside the cinemas waiting for "Star Wars" to open in Portland, Oregon. They won tickets to the movie's grand opening with their costumes. *AP*

Real-life Gundam



JAPAN'S Sakakibara Kikai Co. unveils the "Land Walker," a two-legged walking robot in Shinto village, north of Tokyo. The robot, inspired by the popular anime Gundam, can walk forwards, backwards or sideways and can fire sponge projectiles from two air guns. The 3.4-meter high robot costs 36 million yen ($335,000). *Reuters*

At the ruins

ZAUR Dzarasov, survivor of last September's hostage-taking in Beslan, Russia, takes a lonely walk outside the charred ruins of what was once School No. 1, where his brother and hundreds of others died. *AP*

Pen pals for Mother Earth

(from page 1)

"Their rivers are so different from our own Pasig River, which has dying fish and murky waters because of factory waste," Patricia observed.

The nine-year-old added that they sadly realized through the correspondence that many Filipinos have a lower level of environmental consciousness compared to their American friends.

Catherine said Americans worry about losing species of animals because of rapid urbanization.

"We are not the only ones whose animals are becoming endangered because of environmental degradation," Catherine said.

"In fact, they appealed to us to ask adults to refrain from constructing more malls and buildings because our animal friends are losing their homes in the process," she added.

Patricia said that they would remember and put to good use everything they learned from their friends on the other side of the world.

"We hope they learned a lot from us as we learned a lot from them," Catherine said, smiling.

After all, even though Catherine, Patricia and their other classmates differ a lot from their American counterparts, they have one thing in common: they all love Mother Earth.

GLIDE FOR A CRUISE

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Start gliding from April 1to June 15, 2005! Per DTI-NCR Permit #1673 Series of 2005

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MONGOL
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In cooperation with NCCC
Invite you to join the
ART WORKSHOP
And
ON-THE-SPOT ART CONTEST
"SUMMER WITH MY FAMILY"

June 5, 2005 • 2pm to 6pm
Activity Center, NCCC Mall, Davao.

NCCC DEPARTMENT STORE

MECHANICS:

1. Open to all kids ages 5 to 12 years old.
2. Shoppers must present any NCCC Department Store receipt, single or accumulated, inclusive of at least P200 worth of purchase of any Amspec products (Li'l Hands, Crayola, Gold Medal, Mongol).
3. Present receipt/s at the Customer Service Center Department Store (All branches) and register.
4. Fill up registration form with the following information: name, age, address, and contact number.
5. Registration is from May 23 to June 5, 2005 before start of the workshop and contest proper.
6. Materials to be used shall be provided by the contestants.

THERE WILL BE TWO (2) CATEGORIES:

Li'l Hands Category (for ages 5 to 8 years old)
1st prize: P1,000 cash+ certificate + Li'l Hands gift pack worth P300
2nd prize: P750 cash + certificate + Li'l Hands gift pack worth P300
3rd prize: P500 cash + certificate + Li'l Hands gift pack worth P300
Plus ten (10) consolation prizes of P100 each plus certificate

Lotus Category (for ages 9 to 12 years old)
1st prize: P1,500 cash + certificate + Lotus gift pack worth P300
2nd prize: P1,000 cash + certificate + Lotus gift pack worth P300
3rd prize: P700 cash + certificate + Lotus gift pack worth P300
Plus ten (10) consolation prizes of P200 each plus certificate

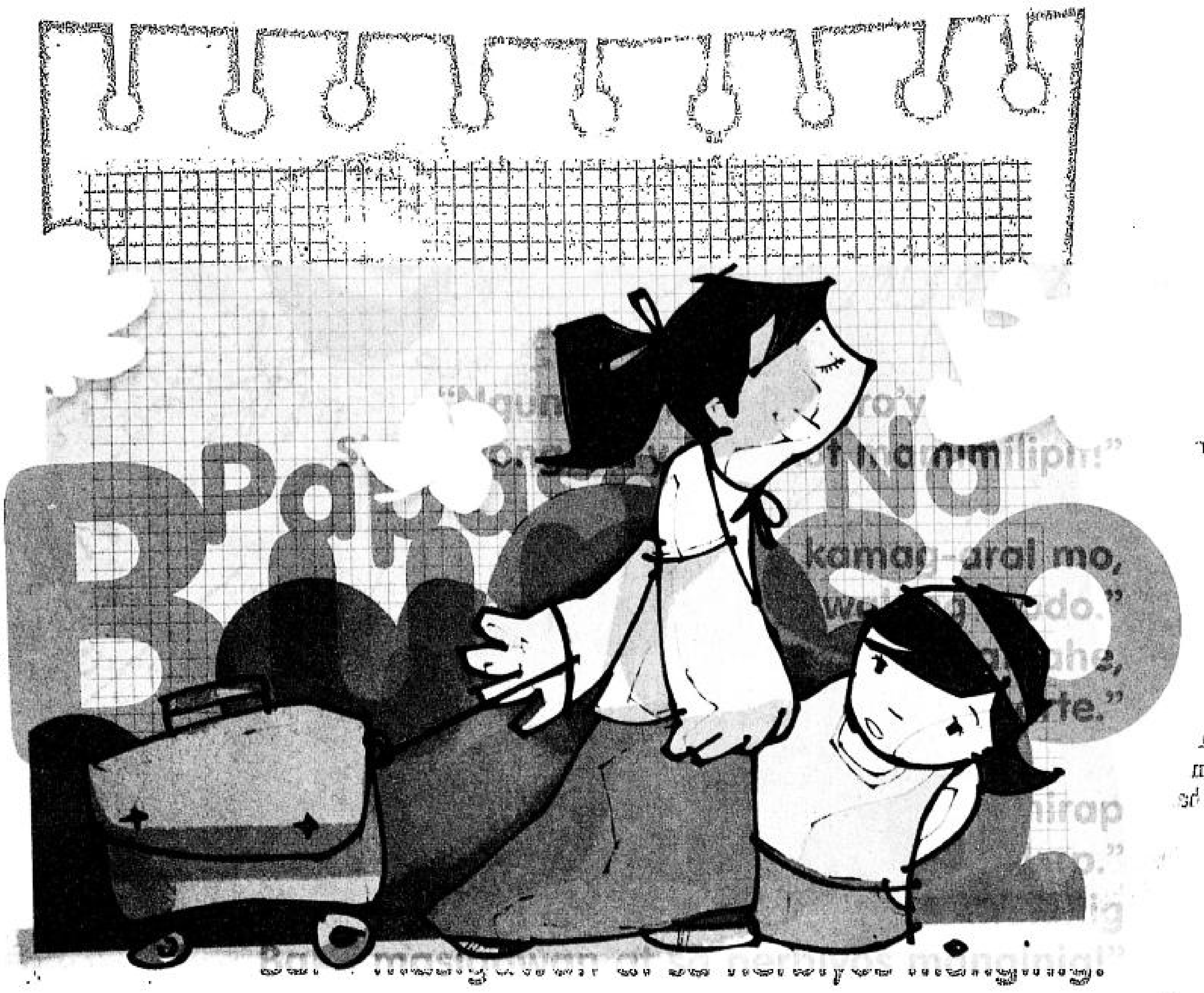
CRITERIA FOR JUDGING:

Combination & Technique = 35%
Design = 35%
Relevance to the Theme = 30%
100%

* Jugdging and awarding of winners is at 5:00 in the afternoon of June 05, 2005 with the presence of a DTI Representative.

AMSPEC
BOND WRITING PAPER
GOLD MEDAL
Mongol
SANFORD SUPER Sharpie

Per DTI-XI Permit No. 001, Series of 2005



FOR or BY KIDS

Papasok na si Bunso

Ni Geraldine Gentozola
Guhit ni Paolo Lim

Huling araw ng klase
At tulad ng dati, hinihintay ni Bunso
si Ate.
Sa tapat ng tarangkahang
Kulay luntian.

Malayo pa’y nakita na ni Bunso
Si Ate’ng may dalang mga libro
Dala ang kanyang bag na nakasukbit,
Sa kanyang balikat na maliit.

“Ate! Ate!” ang salubong ni Bunso
Na halos madapa at matapilok.
Kasunod ay mga tanong na sinasambit
Ni Bunsong tunay na makulit.

“Anong ginawa ninyo ngayon?”
“Sino ang may maraming baon?”
“Anong kuwento ang nalaman mo?”
“Tumingin ba kayo ng mga litrato?”

Isa-isahin ni Ate ang pagsagot
Upang si Bunso’y di mabagot.
“Nagsulat kami ng pangalan,
Naglaro ng bola at naghabulan.”

“Kami’y gumuhit ng larawan,
at saka kinulayan.”
“Nalaman kong kay taas pala ng buwan
at kay lawak ng karagatan.”

“Bukas ay simula ng bakasyon,”
Singit ni Bunso, “Kay tagal ng panahon.”
“Ako’y naiinip na pumasok,”
ang kanyang himutok.

“Huwag kang mainip, Bunso,
Sa bakasyon tayo’y maglalaro!”
“Sandali lang ang panahon
Di mo mapapansing tapos na ang
bakasyon!”

Lumipas ang mga araw
Ang magkapatid ay nagtampisaw
(Sa ilog, batis at sapa) Sa matinding
tag-araw
sila’y magkaulayaw.

Nang tatlong araw bago magpasukan
Muling nagtanong si Bunso kay Ate
“Gaano muli kasaya sa eskwelahan?
Ako’y iyong muling kuwentuhan!”

“Masaya sa eskwelahan,
Marami kang matututunan.”
“Ngunit kung ang guro’y masungit
Siguradong ika’y sa takot mamimilipit!”

“At ang mga kamag-aral mo,
Ang iba’y bastos at walang modo.”
“May maramot at salbahe,
At mayroong suplada’t maarte.”

“Ang ibang aralin ay mahirap
Kaya’t kailangang magsumikap.”
“Ang hindi tumahimik at sa guro’y di
makinig
Baka masigawan at sa nerbiyos
manginig!”

Nang dumating ang pasukan,
Si Bunso’y kinabahan
Hindi naman masabi kay Inay
Na ayaw yata niyang humiwalay.

Pagpasok ni Bunso sa klase,
Iba’t iba ang estudyante.
Mayroong maingay at kimi,
Ngun

Ang g
atan
Upan
Ang p

Ang s
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Mata
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Sa or
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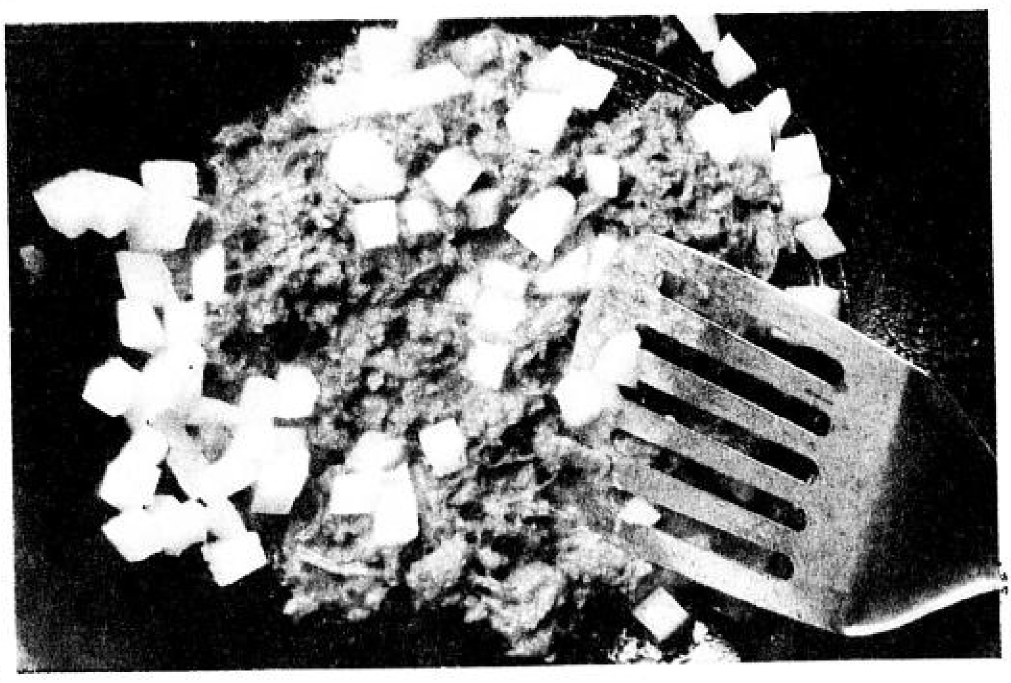
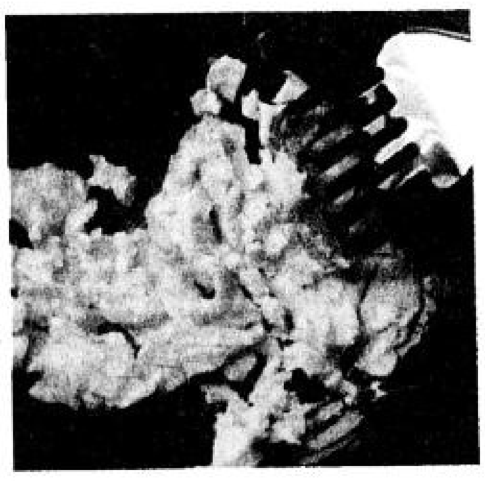
Ay is
karar

Beefy Egg Burrito

Ingredients:
1 can corned beef
2 medium-sized potatoes, cubed
2 eggs, beaten
salt
tortilla wrap, any size

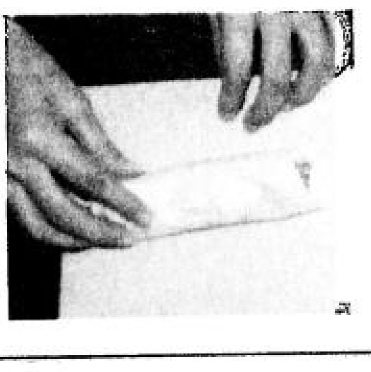
1 A bit of cooking is involved, so ask a grownup for help. Sauté the corned beef in a pan together with the potatoes until cooked. Set aside. Other alternatives for corned beef are cut-up fried chicken or adobo flakes.



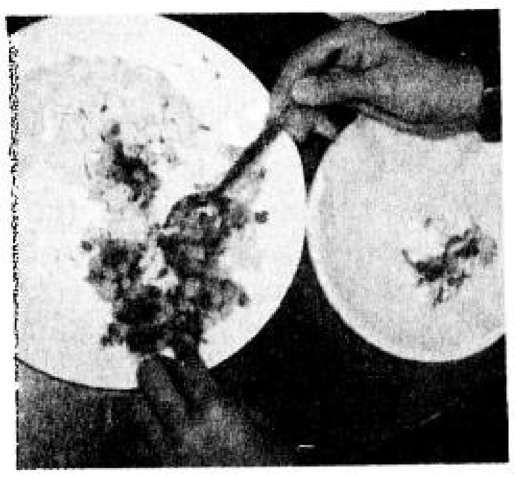


2 Put the egg mixture into a heated pan. You can make your egg fluffy by mixing it while cooking.

3 Once cooked, mix the corned beef and scrambled egg together. This will serve as filling for the burrito.



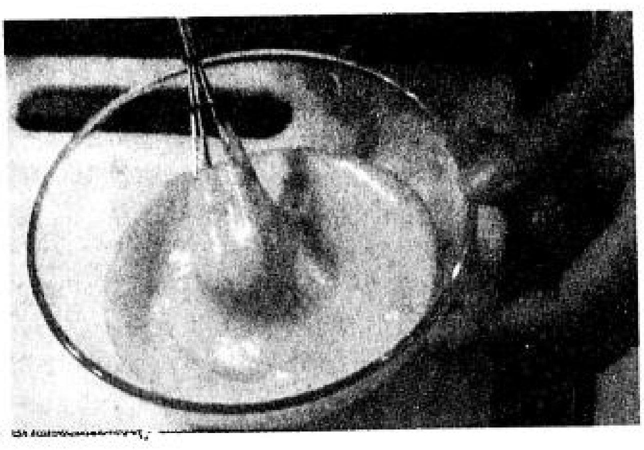
4 Flatten a tortilla wrap on a plate, and place a serving of the corned beef-and-egg filling.



5 Fold one edge of the wrap over the filling and roll into a lumpia-like shape. Wrap the burrito in a thin paper or any kind of wrapper. It’s ready to eat, with rice or as a sandwich!

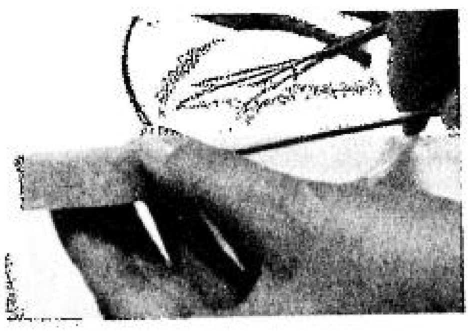
Fat Fingers

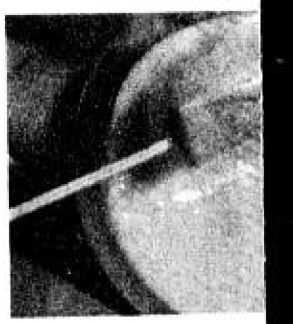
Ingredients:
hotcake mix (200 grams)
1 egg, beaten
1/3 cup water
sliced ham or luncheon meat
(or, you can also use sausage, hotdogs, cheese, cubed fish fillet)



1 egg ar
Mix u
solve
smoot

2 Stick a sliced piece of ham into a barbecue stick.
in the batter (imagine trying to form a lollipop).
the other slices.





3 Deep-fry
until it tu
brown.

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it mayroon ding nakangiti.

uro sa harap ay tumayo,
g mga bata'y sinabihang umupo.
g makinig sa isang kuwento,
amagat ay "Pagong at Kuneho."

umunod ay pagguhit
ga larawang kay liliit.
os ay kinulayan
naskil sa harapan.

s ng meryenda,
aon ay inilabas na.
sal na sari-saring palaman,
a puto at suman.

kaklase niya'y nagbigayan,
t si Bunso'y maraming natikman.

adikit ng aking puso."

bang tinapay at kakanin,
bang pagkain at inumin.

guwi ni Bunso,
abang kanyang kuwento.
ventuhan niya sina Inay at Itay,
at pati na rin si Bantay!

kanyang unang araw sa eskwelahan
ng masaya't magandang
asan

Wala siyang pangambang naramdaman
Kanyang ngiti'y puno ng kaligayahan

Maya-maya'y tinanong niya si Ate
Kung katulad noon ang kanyang klase.
"Ate, bakit iba ang iyong sinabi
At iba naman ang nangyari?"

Si Ate'y di nakatugon,
Siya'y nagpalingun-lingon.
Ang kanyang ulo ay napayuko,
Nahihiya si Ate kay Bunso.

"Patawad, Bunso, ako'y natakot
Baka ako'y iyong malimot."
"Tunay na masaya sa paaralan
marami kang magiging kaibigan."

"Dahil doo'y naisip ko
Na gumawa ng ibang kuwento."
"Ayaw kong ako'y mapalitan
Bilang isang kalaro't kaibigan."

Biglang niyakap ni Bunso
Si Ate'ng mata'y namumugto
Di alam ni Bunso ang gagawin
Upang si Ate'y patahanin.

"Hindi ko iyon maaaring gawin,"
Sagot ni Bunso kay Ate'ng umiiling.
"Ikaw ay kapatid ko,
Kadikit ng aking puso."

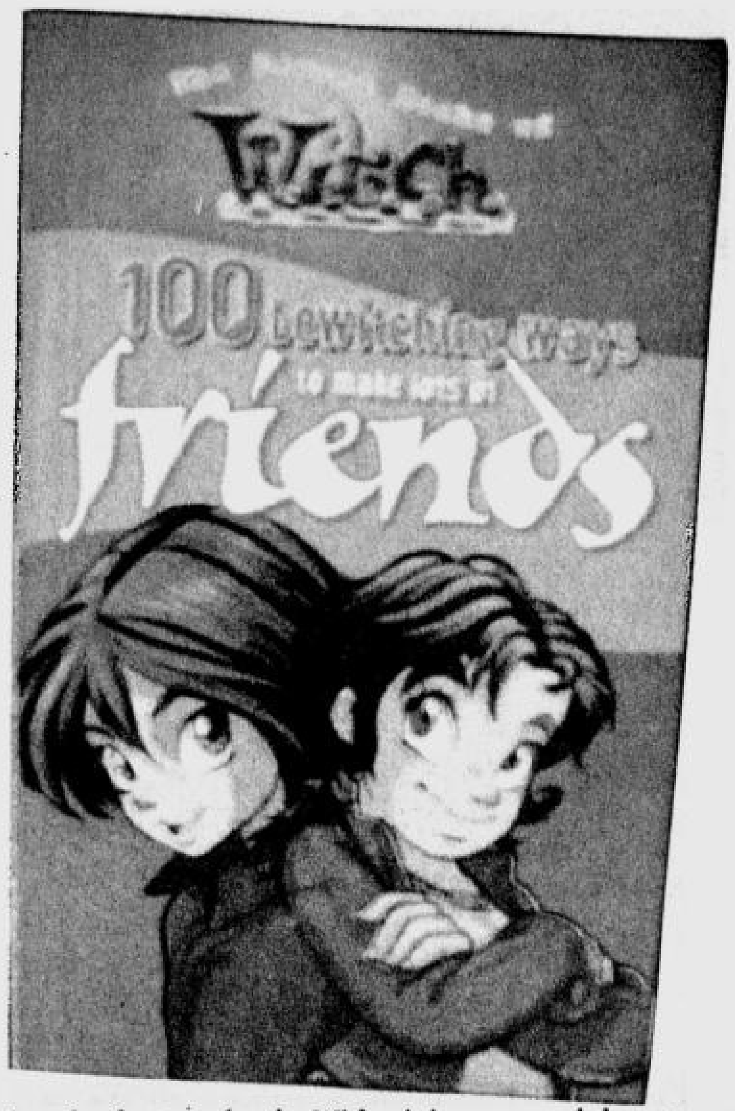
"Higit pa sa kalaro at kaibigan
Ang ating samahan."
"Magkaroon man ng bagong kalaro't
kaibigan,
Sa aking puso'y ikaw lagi ang maiiwan."

Ang magkapatid ay nagtinginan
At sila'y nagkaintindihan.
Tunay na higit sa pagkakaibigan
Ang pagkakapatiran.

---

*Si **Geraldine** ay nakatira sa Novaliches, Quezon City.*
*Si **Paolo** noon ay mahiyain na bata kaya ayaw niya kapag dumarating na ang pasukan. Ngayon, naiisip niyang sana'y mga pagsusulit at mga takdang aralin lang ang prinoproblema niya.*

Surviving school with W.I.T.C.H.



YIPEE! Summer is almost over and school is about to start! Now wipe those frowns off your faces. I know you're feeling sad about saying goodbye to summer vacation; I felt the same way yesterday! But after reading the W.I.T.C.H.'s adventures, I remembered how fun school can be!

No, The Secret Books of W.I.T.C.H. are not about mixing potions and casting spells. W.I.T.C.H. stands for an all-girl *barkada* in their early teens: Will, Irma, Taranee, Cornelia and Hay Lin. Each girl has a unique personality, but together, they get along wonderfully, especially when they try to solve each other's problems.

The book, "100 Bewitching Ways to Survive School," is set on the last day of summer vacation. Irma, the most gregarious of the bunch, is griping about going back to school. With helpful advice and reminders from her W.I.T.C.H. gang, Irma decides that going to school doesn't need to feel like torture. Throughout the book, other school issues are discussed, such as popularity, stereotyping, dealing with uncooperative classmates, and unreasonable teachers.

But we all know that school is not just all about studying, it's also about meeting new people! "100 Bewitching Ways to Make Lots of Friends" is sure to come in handy when you join a new club or transfer to a new school. This book deals with renewing ties with old friends while enjoying your new *barkada*'s friendship, jealousy, having friends from the opposite sex, and patching up differences.

Reading W.I.T.C.H. inspired me to set up my own gang—with you guys, of course! How does I.P.I.S. sound? It's short for Ipis and People's Inspiring Squad because we inspire each other to read all sorts of books. See you in school!

IGGY IPIS
BOOK REVIEWS

Triple Baon Treat

By Christine A. Paita
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

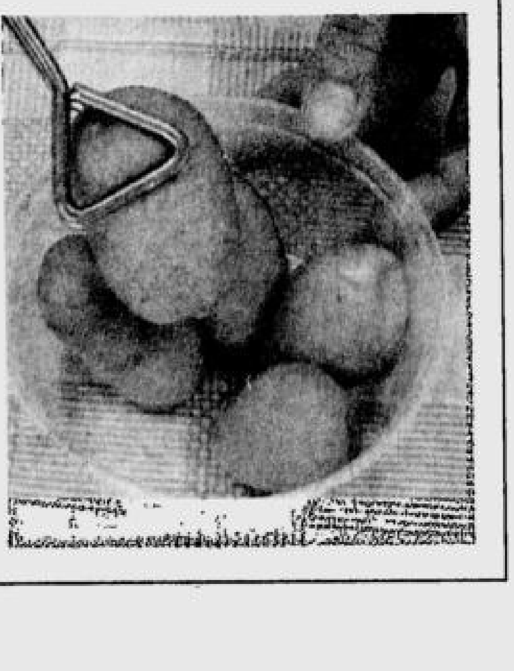
ADMIT it, one of the things you look forward to in school is recess, where you get to share each other's *baon*! Why not help your mom prepare your snack, better yet, make it yourself? Here are some simple *baon* recipes, shared by Ms Gina Navarro, author of "Cooking and Baking for Kiddie Chefs" published by ABS-CBN Publishing.

In a bowl, com-
bine the hotcake
mix, one beaten
d 1/3 cup water.
til the lumps dis-
nd the batter is
h.

hen, dip the ham
o the same for

he ham in oil
ns light golden
n

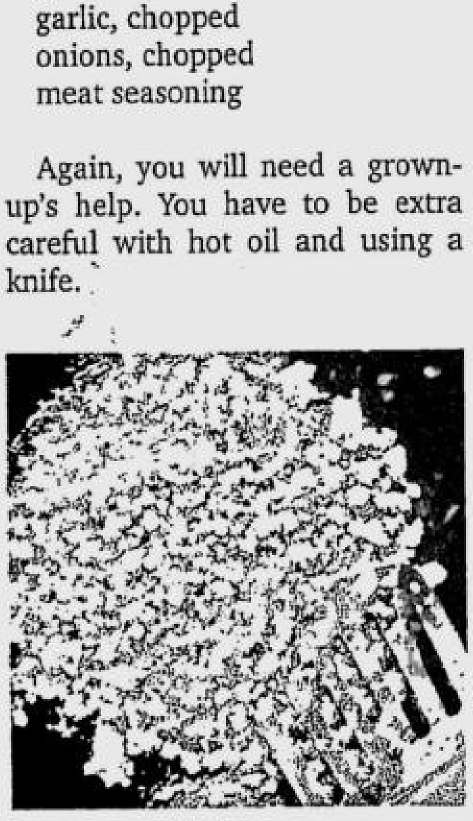
4 Let dry in a plate. Put in a plastic container and—tadah!—you have a baon that's good for sharing.



Cheezy Potato

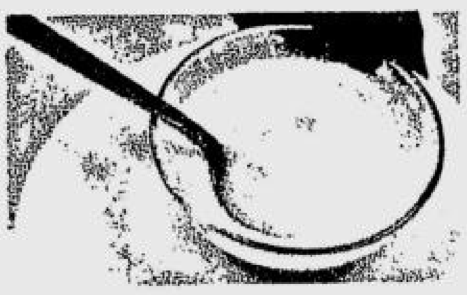
Ingredients:
2 medium-sized potatoes
cheese spread
ground beef
garlic, chopped
onions, chopped
meat seasoning

Again, you will need a grown-up's help. You have to be extra careful with hot oil and using a knife.



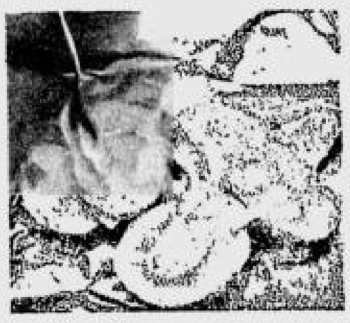
1 In a pan, sauté the ground beef with garlic and onions. Season with salt and pepper or meat seasoning. Once cooked, set the meat aside.

2 Boil the potatoes until they are cooked. Let cool.

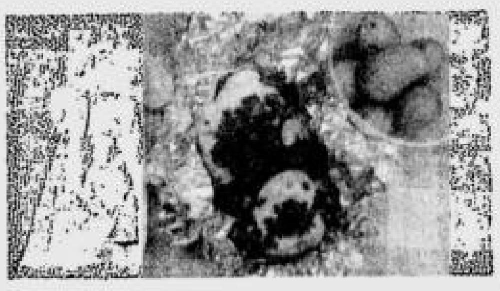


3 Without removing the skin, slice the potatoes.

4 Put the cheese spread in a microwave oven or add a little hot water to thin down its consistency.



5 Add a spoonful of cheese, and then ground beef.



6 Wrap in aluminum foil. Instant yum!

Ms Gina Navarro is a food stylist and culinary teacher. For more fun and kiddie recipes, check out her book, "Cooking and Baking for Kiddie Chefs."

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ERIK ARAZAS

EUGENE in his school's Science Room

SCHOOLEBRATIN!

Why would anyone love to study? For 10-year old Eugene, there's no such thing as back-to-school blues.

By Margaux C. Ortiz

WHILE many kids make the most of their summer vacation by going to the beach and playing in the streets, 10-year-old Alexis Eugene Castor spends his time reading his schoolbooks.

No, the incoming fourth grader at the Pembo Elementary School in Makati City is not a nerd. Nor does he want to impress his teachers and classmates when he goes back to school in June.

Eugene is just used to studying after class, a habit he says he developed since he began school as a kindergarten student five years ago.

"We are very poor, so I try to help my parents by studying hard," says Eugene, who often walks to school every morning from their house in a thickly populated barangay in Makati.

The 10-year-old shares that as the second son of five children, his parents have a hard time sending them all to school.

"My father is a vendor while my mother is a plain housewife," Eugene relates.

But Eugene believes that poverty should not get in the way of academic success. He wakes up early in the morning and goes to school a few hours before his classes begin at 12 noon to attend math review sessions.

"I like math so much, I'm willing to spend extra hours to learn more about the subject," Eugene says with a smile, adding that he wants to be an engineer when he grows up.

The fourth grader's hard work has paid off. He has consistently been on the top of his class since kindergarten.

Eugene was also chosen as the "adoptee" of their school principal, Mrs. Teresita Ariola.

"Mrs. Ariola pays for my uniform and tuition fee," Eugene says proudly. "Her help has greatly eased my parents' financial burden."

Besides being a good student, Eugene also tries his best to be a good son.

As soon as he gets home from school, Eugene helps with the household chores like sweeping the floor and washing the dishes.

After dinner, the 10-year-old helps his brothers and sisters with their homework.

"I also teach them to read and draw," Eugene relates, adding that he immediately does his homework after attending to his siblings.

The fourth-grader is really passionate about his homework, sometimes staying up until midnight to review his day's lessons.

"I would not recommend that to anyone," he says, laughing. "Children my age should sleep early so they could grow tall."

Eugene is excited to go back to school this June.

"I've been reading up on my past lessons so my parents would be proud of me," Eugene says.

He adds with a smile, "Besides, I don't want to forget the things I learned when I was in Grade 3!"

R U RRIFIC?

Kids'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate: ______________

Age: ______________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

____

lives at ______________

and studies at ______________

Her/his contact number is: ______________

Sender's Name: ______________

Sender's Age ______________ & School: ______________

Sender's Address: ______________

Sender's Contact No. ______________

KIDSCENE

What are kids up to?

Cute cosplayer

Akira Obedoza, 4, dresses up as Lilymon from the Digimon Adventures while her mom took on the role of Mimi during Animax's Robo Dream 2005.

ELINE SANTOS

Fiesta Fun

A boy attempts to move a coin from his cheek to his mouth without using his hands in a game during the feast of Sta. Rita in Manila last week.

REUTERS

Palanggana Power

A child beats the summer heat by enjoying a cool bath in Baseco Compound in Manila.

REM ZAMORA

Gundam builder

At Animax's Robo-Dream 2005, kids like 8-year-old Matthew Orejas try their hand at building Gundam models.

ELINE SANTOS

Cooling off

Kids enjoy the white sands and clear waters of Calatagan, Batangas.

RAFFY LERMA

Fly, kite, fly!

A young boy tries to get his kite to fly during the Bear Brand Kite Festival last May 15 at the Luneta Park in Manila.

ERIK ARAZAS

SpongeBob's Blowout

If they could spend one day in Bikini Bottom, Julliana Sta. Ana, 7, would play go fish with SpongeBob while sister Francine, 9, would go jellyfishing.

ELINE SANTOS

Stop child labor

A boy peddles sampaguita garlands on a busy Makati street. According to Unicef, there are about 246 million children engaged in child labor across the globe.

REUTERS

Mom's super helpers

(from page 1)

Even grownups like fathers might faint at witnessing their wives give birth, but Gab, who was 9 years old at the time, was unfazed. He describes the moment as "Cool!"

After the birth, the siblings were there 100 percent. Angeli recalls sleeping with her mom a couple of weeks after Larry's birth. She would wake up in the wee hours of the morning to bring Larry to her mom for breastfeeding. In the daytime, Gab would remind his mom of the tips he learned on how to breastfeed properly. It became something that the whole family promoted.

In 2002, the family went to the Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Breastfeeding in Malaysia. Angeli says that what made it memorable was that, "We worked together as a family."

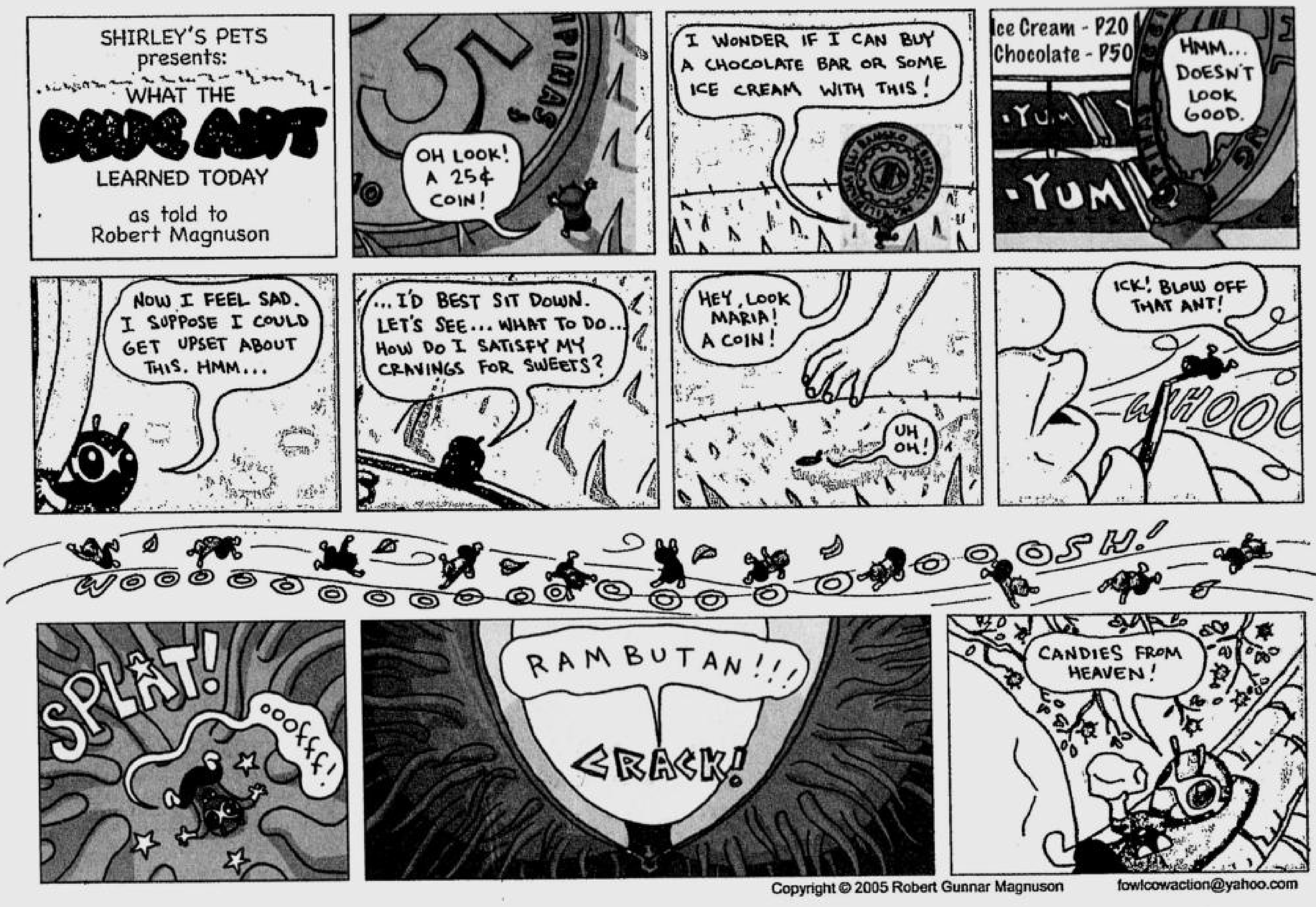
Gab was a speaker and shared their story while their Papa took care of the Powerpoint presentation. Angeli was a judge at an exhibit together with Mom. They all took turns taking care of Larry.

Recently, the family went to a senate hearing as advocates for breastfeeding.

Angeli says, "(Cow's) milk for kids our age or adults is ok but the thing with infant formula is, fragile *pa 'yung bata, kasi* nag-go-grow *pa lang* tapos preservatives, preservatives."

Today, Larry is a confident 3-year-old who eagerly shows off his Batman slippers to strangers.

"I'm Batman!" he announces. Yup, and his *Ate* and *Kuya* are Mom's super helpers.


SHIRLEY'S PETS presents:
WHAT THE BIG ANT LEARNED TODAY
as told to Robert Magnuson
OH LOOK! A 25¢ COIN!
I WONDER IF I CAN BUY A CHOCOLATE BAR OR SOME ICE CREAM WITH THIS!
Ice Cream - P20
Chocolate - P50
YUM
YUM
HMM... DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
NOW I FEEL SAD. I SUPPOSE I COULD GET UPSET ABOUT THIS. HMM...
...I'D BEST SIT DOWN. LET'S SEE... WHAT TO DO... HOW DO I SATISFY MY CRAVINGS FOR SWEETS?
HEY, LOOK MARIA! A COIN!
UH OH!
ICK! BLOW OFF THAT ANT!
WHOOO
WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOSH!
SPLAT!
oooffff!
RAMBUTAN!!!
CRACK!
CANDIES FROM HEAVEN!

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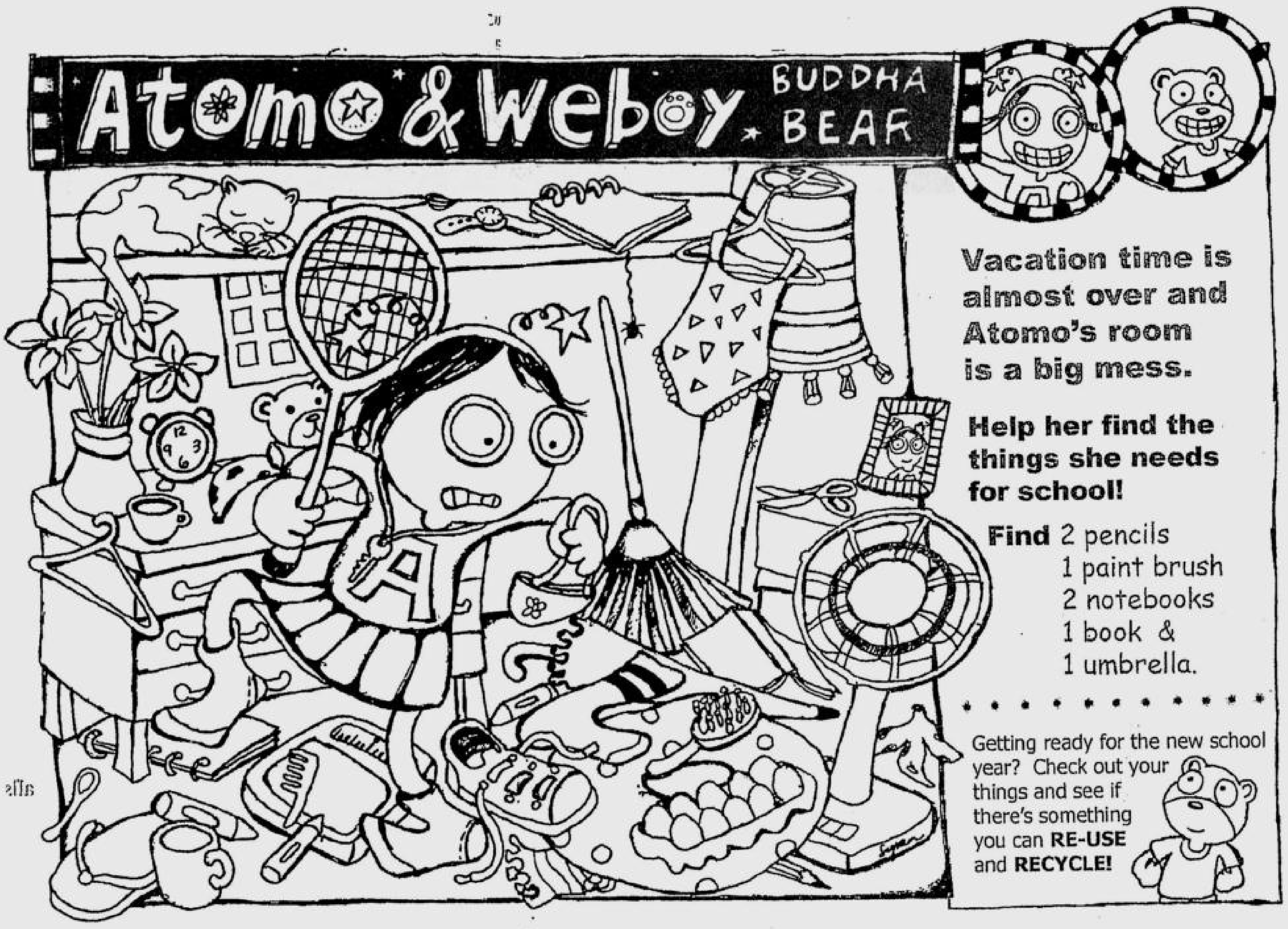

Atomo & Weboy
BUDDHA BEAR

Vacation time is almost over and Atomo's room is a big mess.

Help her find the things she needs for school!

Find 2 pencils
1 paint brush
2 notebooks
1 book &
1 umbrella.

* * *

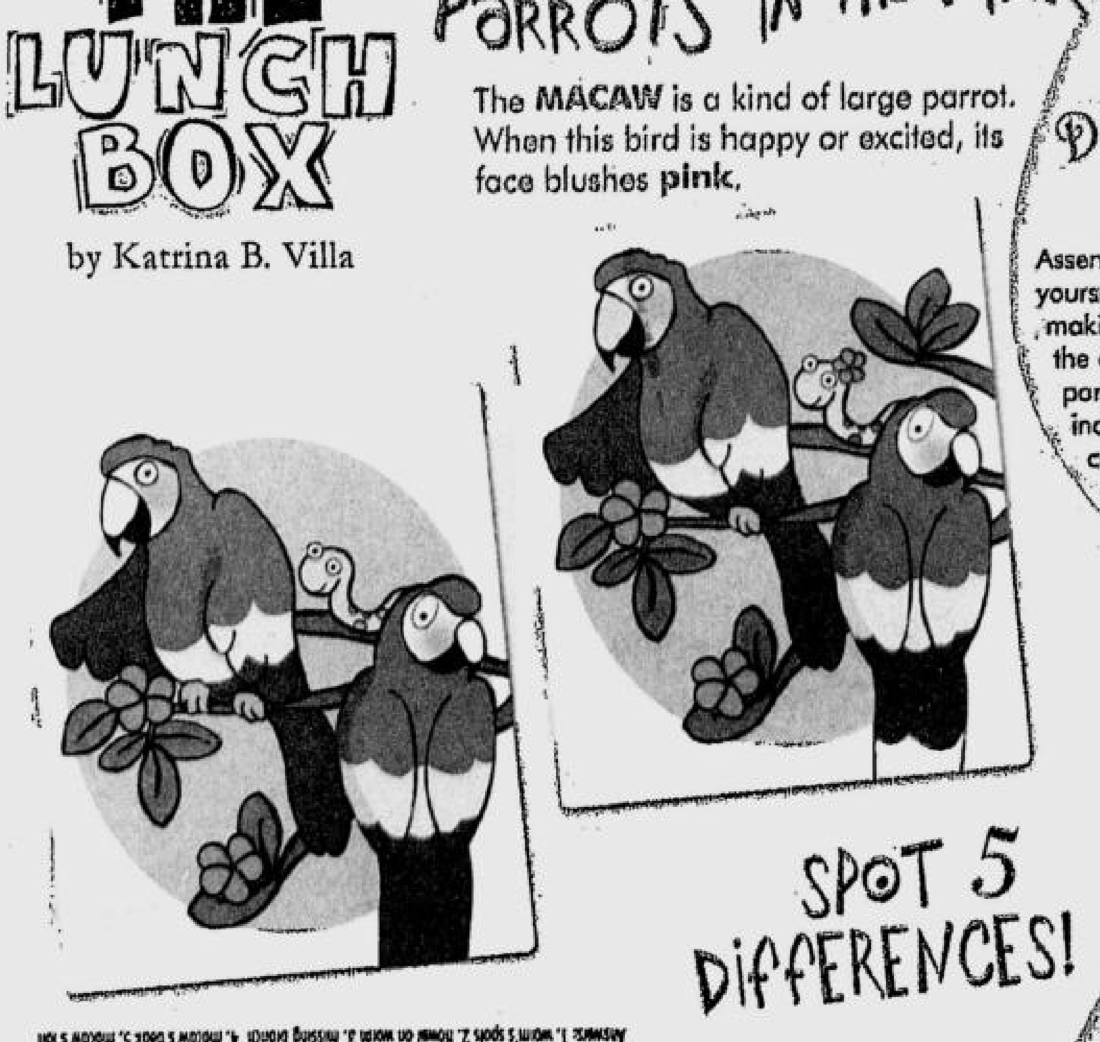
Getting ready for the new school year? Check out your things and see if there's something you can **RE-USE** and **RECYCLE!**

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

Parrots in the Pink

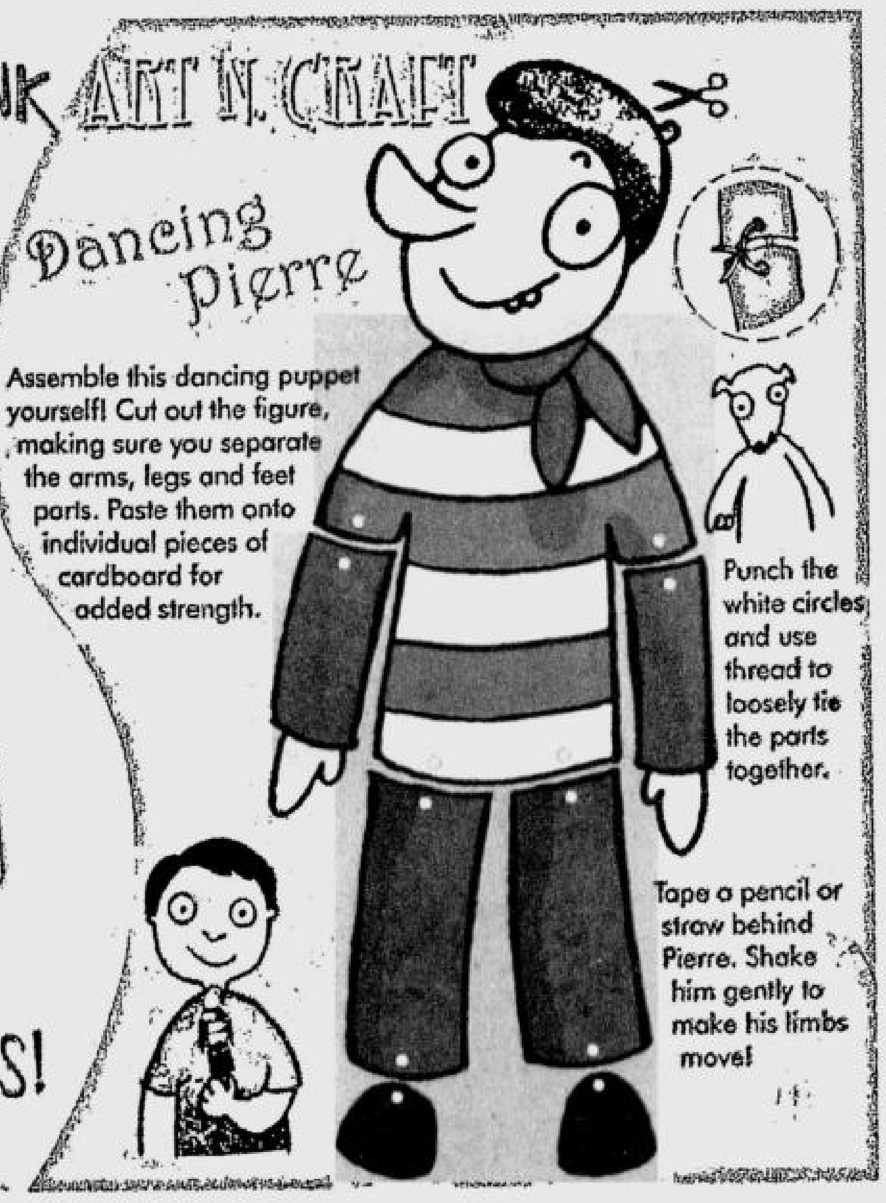
The **MACAW** is a kind of large parrot. When this bird is happy or excited, its face blushes **pink**.


SPOT 5 DIFFERENCES!

Answers: 1. worm's spots 2. flower on worm 3. missing branch 4. macaw's beak 5. macaw's tail

ART N CRAFT

Dancing Pierre



Assemble this dancing puppet yourself! Cut out the figure, making sure you separate the arms, legs and feet parts. Paste them onto individual pieces of cardboard for added strength.

Punch the white circles and use thread to loosely tie the parts together.

Tape a pencil or straw behind Pierre. Shake him gently to make his limbs move!

Bahay-bahayan...

(from page 1)

They experienced a different kind of *bahay-bahayan* as kids from Cebu, Misamis Oriental, Davao, Laguna, and others painted a tiny house. The mini village symbolized their intention to support Gawad Kalinga.

Rolyn Canlas, an incoming high school freshman at Holy Family Academy in Angeles City, explains their group's artwork: "Those who live here must have lives full of color so our house has different colors. The flowers symbolize nature, avoidance of pollution."

Bayanihan needed

So why do they do it? Why spend time building homes for strangers, when they can be playing or hanging out in malls?

For these kids, it's all part of doing their share in building a nation.

"Age has nothing to do with it," says 11-year-old Therese Chantal Abello of St. Scholastica Marikina. "If you want to be a hero, you can be one in your own way. You don't have to be an Andres Bonifacio and sacrifice your life."

Many of the kids also recommend doing other everyday heroic deeds: studying hard, obeying one's parents, taking care of one's pets, and helping the poor.

Tito Tony describes poverty as a lack of hope among Filipinos rather than the lack of money or jobs, but as the spirit of *bayanihan* is being revived through Gawad Kalinga, hope is creeping back in.

Cholo sums up his wish for the country's future: "*Sana po wala nang maging mahirap para lahat pantay-pantay.*"

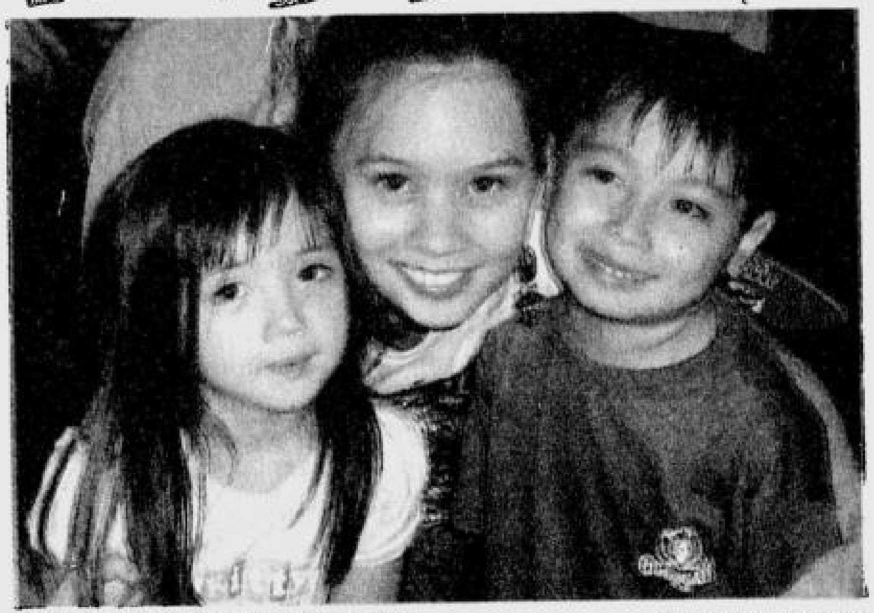
He adds it is only possible if everyone worked together.

"Help out because if we don't cooperate, then nothing's going to get done. Hard work and perseverance is needed."

Want to volunteer? Call 727-0681 for details.

CHOLO builds up communities and invites others to do the same.

Kay Kitchie Kami!



KITCHIE and young friends

PHOTOS BY ELINE SANTOS

By Eline Santos

IN a tight race, Kitchie Nadal edged out Angel Locsin as the celebrity that Pinoy kids would most like to be in the 18th Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards.

Kitchie said she was happy, surprised and impressed.

"I thought those who could relate (to my songs) would be older people."

But relate they do.

Rie Anne Schnell, an incoming fifth-grader at Miriam College Grade School in Quezon City, says she loves Kitchie precisely because "her songs express her feelings."

Other winners of the Pinoy vote are Hilary Duff as favorite actress (for the second year) and Avril Lavigne as favorite music maker.

Harry Potter still ruled as Pinoy kids' favorite read even as "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events" was voted favorite book in the United States. "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" was also the top choice for favorite film.

Kids' Choice Awards '05

Kids' Choice

About 15 million kids voted for their favorites in the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards. The orange blimp goes to...

Movie: "The Incredibles"
Animated movie voice: Will Smith for "Shark Tale"
Movie actress: Hilary Duff
Movie actor: Adam Sandler
TV Show: American Idol
TV Actress: Raven
TV Actor: Romeo
Cartoon: SpongeBob SquarePants
Music Group: Green Day
Female Singer: Avril Lavigne
Male Singer: Usher
Song: Burn
Athlete: Tony Hawk
Video Game: Shrek 2
Celebrity Hidden Talent: Jamie Foxx
Wannabe Award: Queen Latifah

PINOY IDOL

MARICK Dacanay, a 15-year-old fan of Kitchie Nadal, got a special treat. She sang with her idol onstage. A very excited Marick could hardly believe what happened.

"Oh my God! I never thought... I'm so surprised! I love her songs so I said why not sing with her?"

When Kitchie asked who knew the second verse to "Same Ground," Marick immediately raised her hand as it was one of her favorite songs.

"It was very exciting to be right beside my idol," said Marick. "At the same time it was very nerve-wracking to be in front of a lot of people since I didn't have a chance to practice."

Despite the butterflies, Marick (who used to be on ABS-CBN's show, "Epol Apple") sang very well.

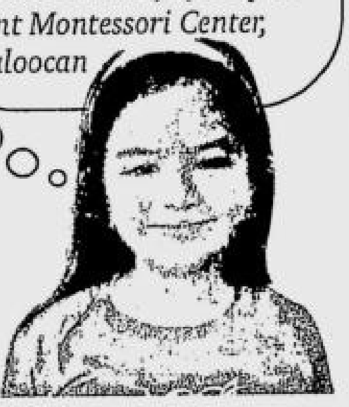
KITCHIE jams with fan Marick

Think Out Loud!

What is your new school year resolution?

Interviews and photos by Maria Zobel Certeza

"I will do my best to not be late anymore. I will listen to the teacher so that when there's an exam, I will know the answer." *—Bea Binene, 7, Holy Infant Montessori Center, Caloocan*



"I will always listen to the teacher so I know how to reply (to questions) and avoid getting scolded." *—Gabriel Angelo Roxas, 6, Star Blossoms Academy*

"My school year resolutions are: to go to school early, to get high grades and to improve my handwriting."*—Nadine Alexis Lustre, 11, Diliman Preparatory School, Quezon City*

"To take my studies seriously so I can be in the top 10!" *—Michael Lawrence S. Venegas, 12, Colegio De San Lorenzo, Quezon City*

"My school year resolution is to avoid being *makulit* and to always listen to the teacher from now on so I can get honors!"*—Mark Lester Venegas, 8, Colegio de San Lorenzo, Quezon City*

"To finish my grade school!"*—Mariam M. Jimenez, 10, Raphael Palma Elementary School*

"I will be good and listen to the teacher. I also want to get first honor!"*—Kale Angelo M. Roxas, 7, Star Blossoms Academy*

JUNE

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
			1 Happy birthday, Oscar the Grouch! Kids' Playfest 2 p.m., Museo Pambata	2 8th Asian Cartoon Exhibition opening June 3-10 Greenbelt 3	Scholastic Book Fair June 3-4 CARE Center for Early Learning P50 discount for donated newspapers	4 Junior Inquirer Photo Exhibit Museo Pambata
5 Tiklado, Tinig, at Kwerdas Summer Recital Sta. Isabel College Recital Hall, 2 p.m. Museo Pambata's Library visits Brgy. Pembo, Makati City	6 Catch "Miguel" on Cartoon Network 6-7 p.m.	7	8 Ice cream was first sold in New York in 1786.	9 May the force be with Natalie Portman, as she turns 23!	10	11 Storytelling by Museo Pambata, June 11-12, 10 a.m., Gateway Mall
12 Philippine Independence Day Anne Frank would have been 76 yrs. old today.	13 Double celebration for b-day girls Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen	14 Spy Kids' Daryl Sabara turns 12!	15 Camarines Norte celebrates the Pineapple Festival June 15-23	16 "Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl" was published in the U.S. in 1955.	17	18 3rd Buhayin ang Maynila sa Guhit ng mga Bata Art Contest, Museo Pambata, 9-12 noon. Call 531-1797- 98
FATHER'S DAY was first celebrated in Washington in 1910. National hero Jose Rizal was born today!	20 PILI FESTIVAL, June 20-29 Sorsogon, Sorsogon.	21 Prince William celebrates his 23rd birthday.	22	23	ARAW NG MAYNILA Manileños get a free tour of Museo Pambata Feast of St. John the Baptist, San Juan City	25 Storytelling: "Mama's House, Papa's House" Museo Pambata, 10 a.m.
26 Arts and Crafts Edible Art Museo Pambata, 2 p.m.	27 Happy birthday, Tobey Maguire!	28 Sailboats race in Tacloban City. Leyte's Subiran Regatta	29 PINTADOS FESTIVAL Tacloban, Leyte	30		

Art by Steph Bravo

kids accessories
fun fashion for kids only

With the wave f a wand
sprinkle f pi dust
And a lot of giggle

Step into a magical gar en
Of fairies and enchantmen
Enter the world the
Whizzies!

Whizzies

We've got it all for you!
SM DEPARTMENT STORE